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Vol.6 - #1 - Issue 31 - Oct./Nov.
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**ABSOLUTE
UNDERGROUND**

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AUGURY, HOLY HELL, WARRINGER, STRATOVARIUS.

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 THU DEC. 17TH ZELAS HYPE 9PM
 FRI DEC. 18TH T'WAS A PUNK ROCK CHRISTMAS ANGRY SNOWMANS, VONBONES 9PM \$10
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VICTORIAS LOCALS ONLY



End With The Mongoose

Interview with guitarist Jono Jak

by Dustin Jak

Emerging out of the Garden city with a Modus Operandi similar to Vlad Tepes or Countess Bathory, Start With The Cobra are here to smack you and your bitch up with the same open hand you would receive from Electric Frankenstein, The New Bomb Turks, Toilet Boys, Glucifer, Candy Snatchers or any other band on Man's Ruin or Junk Records in the late 90's. The Spitfires are playing reunion gigs and Billy Hopeless kicked his Halos out for listening to the fuckin' Smiths (his words dude) so someone has to carry the rock torch for a while!! Anyone who knows Jono Jak (the man who put Turbonegro Tom on the Jak\$!!) or Creepy (Naughty Camp) Simon Game, knows anything can happen at any time; fuck in a couple of Rod Iron Haulers, add a Mag and you have probably the most tear shit up rock band since the legendary Felchers (anyone who saw these maniacs in 98'-99' knows what I mean). The next time these dicks hit your town, go out and see em, just make sure to take the next few days off of work! Oh and Jono hates being called V'Jono!!!

Absolute Underground: What bands were all you assholes in before START WITH THE COBRA?
 Jono Jak - Old schoolers like: Breach, PCP, Speak

AU: Do you guys have anything coming out in the way of recordings?
 Jono: We all have our moments. We are all hellas spazs.
AU: Who is the biggest fuck up in the cobes?
 Jono: Sure gimme 100 bux, I'll meet you back here in.....
AU: What are your favorite bands, period?
 Jono: Dogs of War, Fast times, Weird Science, Wild Life, The Longest Day... I like party movies and war movies. A party war movie, or a war party movie would be awesome. "Apocalypse Now" is pretty much a war party movie isn't it?



Jono: Got an EP available right now, but the full length will be out in the new year; just mixing the final four rippers. We're also teaming up with Phillips Brewing Company for their Showcase band for January. We'll have three songs available for free download inside the Showcase 12 pack... that's fuckin cool.

AU: Favorite Halen album with ROTH?

Jono: Right now, it's "Women and Children 1st".

AU: Favorite movies?

Jono: "Dogs of War", "Fast times", "Weird Science", "Wild Life", "The Longest Day"... I like party movies and war movies. A party war movie, or a war party movie would be awesome. "Apocalypse Now" is pretty much a war party movie isn't it?

AU: Can you guys get me some drugs?
 Jono: Sure gimme 100 bux, I'll meet you back here in.....
AU: What are your favorite bands, period?
 Jono: Dogs of War, Fast times, Weird Science, Wild Life, The Longest Day... I like party movies and war movies. A party war movie, or a war party movie would be awesome. "Apocalypse Now" is pretty much a war party movie isn't it?

The people in the pit.

By: denis maile

For the year-end issue I wanted to take a look back at the year of shows that was, and what better way to do it than to interview the people who were there, the people supporting their local scene, the people in the pit. There's nothing better than people who show up to shows to dance and have a good time, the local scene thrives on them, and these are a few of those people.



Laura

AU: Who are you and what are you best known for?

Laura: I'm Laura. Probably known as the girl with the blue hair. I'm also real sweet.

AU: What was the best show you saw this year?

L: Propagandhi at The Rickshaw was awesome. Teenage Bottlerocket at The Red Room was a blast; I danced my ass off. The Real McKenzies show at 340 was really fun too.

AU: What's the wildest thing you've seen happen at a show this year?

L: When the dude from Cum Soc puked on the crowd numerous times at The Cobalt, that was pretty wild. Grossly disgustingly wild.

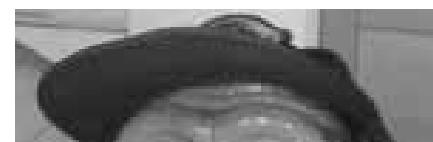
AU: Who is your favourite local band?

L: The Rebel Spell.

AU: Any new local talent you're excited about?

L: The Quiet Kids. They're super catchy and tight. No album out yet, but their live show is wicked.

AU: What's the worst thing that happened



Zoe

AU: Who are you and what are you best known for?

Zoe: I am Zoe, best known for being a lush

AU: What was the best show you saw this year?

Z: Bouncing Souls was a rowdy good time.

AU: What's the wildest thing you've seen happen at a show this year?

Z: The Motley Slut-booty short-puke filled adventure that was Wendy Thirteen's birthday party. I don't know about you, but I have no problem getting vomit in my hair for free beer.

AU: Who is your favourite local band?

Z: Too many to name, but props to The Winston Campaign for getting on a bill with NOFX in Mexico!

AU: Any new local talent you're excited about?

Z: All female punk rockers Joyce Collingwood. They're hotter than your girlfriend and they fucking thrash.

AU: Any crazy stories from the pit?

Z: The Vicious Cycles played a set at the El Dorado that ended in a thriving dog pile of twenty kids, all of them wearing jeans, which was more hilarious than words can describe. And to the kid who thought it would be cute to lift up my skirt at The Briggs, I will sucker punch you again. Don't get cute in the pit! I guess this is what happens when you go to The Bourbon.

AU: Anything the Vancouver scene needs to work on?

Z: Venues with cheap beer! Where did that "You can piss, smoke and drink in here" sign go? Someone needs to find it a new home.



involving the local scene this year?

L: The closing of the Cobalt broke my heart. I never thought I could love a bar so much.

AU: Any crazy stories from the pit?

L: The guy with the big motorcycle helmet at the Knucklehead show thrashing around in the pit was kinda crazy in a bad way.

AU: Anything the Vancouver scene needs to work on?

L: More enthusiasm would be nice! Dance, or tap your foot. Don't just stand there. It's a music show, not a boring fashion show!

Monkeyman

AU: Who are you and what are you best known for?

Monkeyman: Monkeyman is known for being all hands.

AU: Anything the Vancouver scene needs to work on?

M: Being on time for a show. I've seen so many quality openers play to no one.

VANCOUVER VENGEANCE

M: Bison took over the Biltmore.

AU: Who is your favourite local band?

M: Jaws, No Horses, Pride Tiger, Spreadeagle, the bands called it quits this year.

AU: Any new local talent you're excited about?

M: Bogus Tokus, Congress, Unfun, Timocop. There's a ton of new local talent to get excited about.

AU: Crazy stories from the pit?

M: When I think about a bunch of sweaty dudes rubbing up against each other, "crazy" isn't the first word that comes to mind.

AU: Anything the Vancouver scene needs to work on?

M: Being on time for a show. I've seen so many quality openers play to no one.



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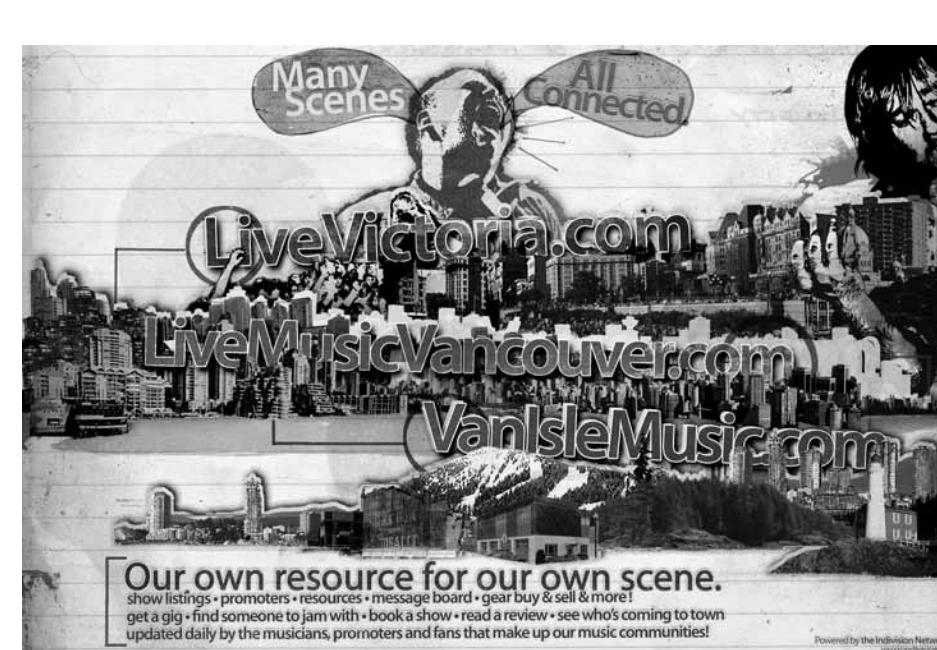
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DIVINITY

The Singular Snipe

By Ryan Dyer

Absolute Underground - Since you were last interviewed in AU, the band has really taken off - the signing to Nuclear Blast, release of Allegory, cross Canada tours, and now the impending release of your sophomore full length, The Singularity. How has this experience been and what are some of the things the band took from touring on such events as Summer Slaughter as a signed act?

Brett Duncan - We learned a lot about the big scene, the people in it, and we mostly learned about the music business and how hard bands have to work on the road. It was amazing to share the stage with so many wicked and talented bands, and to learn from them. We also learned that being signed doesn't really change a band, it just gives you more opportunities for people to

hear your music. It also lets you hear kids scream your band's name, although that never happened to us.

AU - Tell us a little of the recording process involved with the Singularity; was it similar to Allegory's, did you have song ideas ready before you hit the studio?

BD - The songs were 90% done when we started recording. We even had half the record written when we went on tour last summer, so it made tracking a bit easier this time. Sacha produced and engineered the entire album this time around, and we recorded it quite a bit faster as well. We have a website called www.brokebands.com and Sacha documented the recording process every step of the way. We did the whole thing in Sacha's studio, except vocals, which were recorded with Grant Howarth again as he was great to work with on Allegory. Sacha spent a lot of hours editing, mixing and mastering this album and it sounds killer. We paid him in cheese and high fives.

AU - What type of things did you want to explore on the new album - both musically and lyrically - not seen on Allegory?

BD - The album is a lot more mature this time around, and a lot more technical, yet still catchy. We really pushed ourselves musically and it shows on the album. The lyrics focus on how we see the world and what we see for the future. Some of the subjects include people getting themselves into enormous debt, people not taking responsibility for their actions, and how fast technology is taking over our lives. Pretty deep topics, as we are deep people.

AU - Do you have any track set as a first single, or are there plans for a video?

BD - We'll do a video as soon as we can find our buried treasure. As for a song, we'll pick one when we find our treasure.

AU - The album will be out as a digipack special limited to 100 copies worldwide, all

CALGARY CARNAGE

signed by the band. What will people be getting with this set? Have the preorders hit this mark yet?

BD - The digipack will include lots of DVD bonus features, including guitar and drum videos, guitar tabs, and bonus tracks not available on the album. There just may be lots of other cool shit too. We have sold most of the digipacks already, so get yours today! DO IT NOW!

AU - Where will Divinity embark after the album hits the streets?

BD - We have lots of shows planned for the next year, including tours in the states and Europe. We're looking forward to hitting the road next spring and spreading the divinity name all over the world. Or at least the states and Europe. And Canada of course. Cause we live here.

www.myspace.com/divinitymetal

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PERMANENT RECORD TATTOO interview with owner and artist James Gossier.

by Dustin Jak

Absolute Underground:
What style of tattooing are you best known for?

James Gossier: I'd say I'm probably best known for realism, either color or black and grey.

AU - Where did you see your first tattoos and when?

JG: When a friend started getting them, we were around 15 or 16; back in the days before every high school kid had them. At the time I thought he was crazy.

AU - Who did you apprentice under?

JG: I apprenticed under Rob Forest back in the early eighties. He had a shop out in the Okanagan Valley; that's where I got my start.

AU - Are you worried about the amount of shops opening up now?



AU - Who are some of your biggest inspirations in tattooing?

JG: I'm most inspired by the work of guys like Adrian Lee, Nikko Hurtado, James Tex, Mariana Storme, and Robert Hernandez.

AU - What makes your shop unique?

JG: I guess it comes down to the people that work here, and their unique artistic styles. Namely myself and my pal Von. It's been eight years since I began my apprenticeship, and I've worked at a number of different tattoo studios, and gained valuable knowledge from a lot of talented artists. Now it's time for me to roll the dice. Working for myself has given me a whole new level of caring and appreciation for what I get to do for a living.

AU - What made you decide upon the location?

JG: I've always liked the feel of Victoria's Quadra Street Village. It's got a really eclectic mix of businesses and ethnicities, plus it's got a cool old movie theatre dating back to the 1940's just down the street.

AU - How would you describe your shop's style?

JG: I'd say it's got a lot of "dreamtreehouse" feel. Like that clubhouse you always wished you could have with your best buds when you were ten.

AU - What do you listen to in your spare time?

JG: Mostly older stuff like Hendrix, Doors, Zeppelin, Skynard.

INK SLINGERS

AU - What types of movies do you like?

JG: Anything featuring cars, sex, explosions and robots. Real think-pieces.

AU - What do you want the readers to know about your shop?

JG: It's a genuinely comfortable place to spend some time getting great artwork. Plus we have free Donkey Kong!

AU - Any advice for young up and comers?

JG: Do everyone a favor and learn the fundamentals of drawing and painting before you tattoo.

AU - What's the craziest request for a tattoo you have ever gotten?

JG: A Manson family chest piece, complete with multiple portraits, writing in blood, signatures, and family banners. Seriously.

AU - What do you want the readers to know about you as a Tattooist?

JG: I'm an artist first.

AU - Any other interesting comments about you or your shop?

JG: I'm a robot. Our shop has robots.



DATALINK

FIRST & THIRD FRIDAYS OF THE MONTH

DEC 04 DATALINK

DEC 05 RONNIE HAYWARD TRIO
RECKLESS HEROES

DEC 12 HELLRAZER

FRIDAYS LIVE BANDS

PUNK / ROCK / INDIE

DEC 18 POET CREW

VOP
OMINOUS
& GUESTS

DEC 19 JOSEPH BLOOD
& THE BLUETICK HOUN'DOGS
THE COLLAPSE

SATURDAYS LIVE BANDS

METAL / HARDCORE / HARD ROCK

JAN 08 DATALINK

JAN 09 NOCTURNAL SUN

JAN 16 BACK ALLEY BOOZERS

JAN 22 DATALINK

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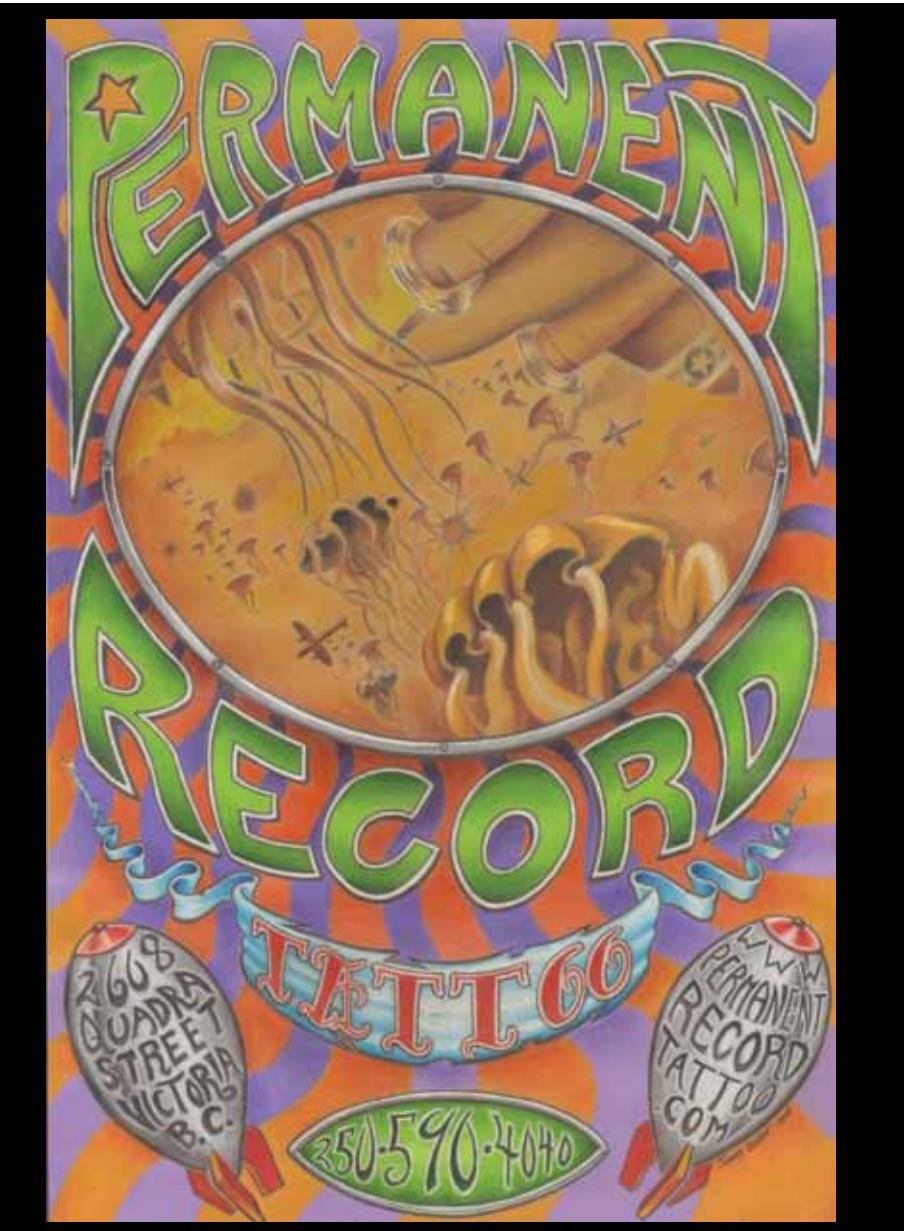
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CALGARY BABECORE 2010 Calendar

By StEvil

Wouldn't it be cool if a bunch of the hottest babes in Calgary's heavy music scene got together and decided to collaborate their various talents and attributes to produce a sexy calendar to sell for cancer research? Fuckin' right it would!

And the ladies of The Calgary Babecore have done just that. This year marks the release of the third annual Babecore calendar. With a team that includes coordinators, photographers, hair & make-up artists, clothing designers, graphic designers, and sexy Babecore babes, they have produced a sleek and professional work of art. All for a good cause, and a good time.

Kristin Semchuk brings a sexy and empowered female presence to the blistering hardcore of the band BDFM, and as coordinator of the calendar project, she has infused it with the same energy. She's also drop-dead gorgeous, so it was with great pleasure Absolute Underground spoke to her about the Babecore Calendar.

Absolute Underground: So how did this all come about?

Kristin: I thought it would be fun to do, since all the necessary resources were at hand; hot chicks, designers, photographers and so on. I ran the idea past some of the ladies in the Calgary Beer Core, and it grew from there.

AU: What does take it to be a Babecore babe?

Kristin: There is no physical criteria – it comes down to what they offer the calendar (other than a pair of tits), for



instance, Katie Bevan, one of the babes, is currently putting together a Babecore website and handles the calendar sales from The Distillery all year long. Holly Yuzwa provides us with shoot locations – we are a team and everyone contributes something special.

AU: These are beautiful shots – amazing composition, set-design, and great costumes. You've obviously got some talented professionals involved.



Kristin: Demonika of Demonika Clothing (and CBC Babe of the year 2009) makes or helps alter all of the clothing. Miss Rocket Siobhan (Toxic Cabaret Photography) and Sonya Erb are the photographers. They have been with us since day one. Then Colin "Elorph" McCulloch gets his graphic designer hands on them and it all comes together. The theme this year is basically "Babecore Does Beer Core".

Each of the ladies chose their favorite Beer Core band to represent via photo.

AU: These shots definitely turn the conventional notion of "pin-up girl" art on its head. What is sexiness to you?

Kristin: Confidence is sexy. At the risk of sounding like a Dove commercial, anorexic and airbrushed is not sexy; I find it very interesting that we worship these unattainable ideals. What makes a person sexy is their mind, who they are as a person and what they do to make themselves stand out. This calendar is a Fuck You to the cookie cutter approach; we are real women and we are sexy!

AU: No argument here! What is the goal this year for the calendar?

Kristin: All proceeds go to The Alberta Cancer Foundation, and we hope to exceed funds raised in previous years. We also want to find more genuine sponsors to eliminate the overhead. When finished, babecore.com will answer all your burning questions. The official calendar release party is at The Distillery on Dec 5th.

AU: Well, best of luck, and thanks for taking the time to fill us in on this great project.

Babecore.com
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Another Year, Another Beer. We asked the Chosen Ones, mostly writers, some celebrities, also probably a few felons, involved with world of Absolute Underground to express their thoughts on the shit that went down in 2009. Here they are in no particular order, because we don't believe in order!!!



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Chuck Wurley. Same things as last year. I just have more of the style and grace that comes with another year of age.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:

Saw some new ones: Von Bones, and the Role Models. Liked some older ones a lot too: Brave New Waves, OneDrop, Keg Killers, The Remedials, Raised By Apes, SNFU.

Best Punk Album of the Year:

The 241ers - Murderers

Best Live show of the Year:

This year it is a toss up between the Swingin Utters opening for the Pogues, Rancid, or the Mighty Mighty Bosstones. Though my undying love of SNFU puts them in there somewhere too.

Best Movie of the Year:

Inglorious Basterds

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Zombieland, or Jennifer's Body. Best New Band taking over your local scene:

Von Bones or the Role Models.

Best tattooist you know:

Best Live show of the Year:

Cowboys and Indians (Stay tuned!)

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Frank Turner: Poetry of the Deed

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

SpongeBob's Greatest Hits Album (Yes, I'm serious.)

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Bison B.C.'s "Quiet Earth".

Shittiest Album of the Year:

"Johnny Cash Remixed". I love Johnny a lot; why his own son would produce an "album" like this just makes me want to cry. Seriously. This album is sacrilegious. RIP, Johnny.

Best tattooist you know:

Best Live show of the Year:

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

IF I READ IT I WOULD PROBABLY ENJOY IT

Who are you and what are you best known for?

I am Mr. Plow, I am known for making fun of you when you watch me play my songs on stage

Favorite Local Band:

THE EPITOMEES

Still Scott at Blank Generation.

Best skater you know:

I think Duane Peters is still skating.

Best Event/Party of the Year:

The 10th Anniversary Ska Festival!!

Shock of the Year:

I didn't win the lottery.

Douche of the Year:

Do I still have to name just one? Ok, fine Chad Kroeger you win, AGAIN!

I bet the secret to his success is Scientology!

Best skater you know:

Simon Mitchell (RIP)

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:

Tank Standing Buffalo

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Femme Fatale Carnivale 4/Demonika's Symphony of Horrors 4

GWAR: LUST IN SPACE

Shittiest Album of the Year

THAT NEW CREED CD

Best Live show of the Year:

GWAR W/ THREE INCHES OF BLOOD IN SAN DIEGO

Best Movie of the Year:

THE HANGOVER

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

ZOMBIELAND

Best tattooist you know:

DENNIS AT FLAMEJOB

Best skater you know:

CHI PIG

Best Event/Party of the Year:

THE COBALT

Shock of the Year:

THE COBALT CLOSING

Douche of the Year:

UNCLE ANUS

Clusterfuck of the Year:

THE SAHOTAS

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

IF I READ IT I WOULD PROBABLY ENJOY IT

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THE EPITOMEES

Who are you and what are you best known for?

Adam Goatlord. I'm the guy who works on the Absolute Underground website, best known for skating straight down Johnson street hill in Coquitlam drinking a beer and

Who are you and what are you best known for?

Leif Brooke rips it up, unless he's hung over then he sucks like me.

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Okanagan Fest-of-Ale in April. Mission

smoking a cigarette without wiping out.
Favorite Local Band:

In Vancouver The Golers and in Victoria the Keg Killers

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Hardiment Peni - No More Pain

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

Accused - The Curse of Martha Splatterhead

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Proclamation - "Exorcism of Cruel Bestiality" and Archgoat - "The Light-Devouring Darkness"

Shittiest Album of the Year.

If it's not in my collection then it's shit!

Best Live show of the Year:

The mighty Morbosid live at The Cobalt - Morbosid Metal!!!!!!

TurboNegro at the Commodore, Dayglos show at the Cobalt after the

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

ZOMBIELAND

Best tattooist you know:

COLIN WO

Who are you and what are you best known for?

I'm Collin Wo and im best known for having long majestic hair... and playing guitar in Sacred Army.

Favorite Local Band:

My new solo project Orphan Hammer. www.myspace.com/orphanhammer.(I know, shameless plug)

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Primal Fear 16.6 (before the devils know your dead)

Honorable mention: Steel Panther

Shittiest Album of the Year:

The Nickelback cd I use to wipe my smelly ass with everyday

Best Live show of the Year:

Noctis 3 Festival was pretty rad

Best Movie of the Year:

Anal Buffet

Continued on page 17

BEST OF 2009

to Mission (Mission Springs Brewery) - free food and beer. Morbosid after party at my house. Jaks China Creek Skate Comp

Shock of the Year:

Micheal Jackson dying

Douche of the Year:

Vancouver cops, Gordon Campbell

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Vancouver Olympics

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Not enough Gwar interviews :)



Jaks Skate comp
Best Movie of the Year:
Iron Maiden: Flight 666
Best Horror Movie of the Year:
Drag Me to Hell
Best New Band in your local scene:
R.O.C, Excavator, Necroholocaust
Best tattooist you know:
The Nickelback cd I use to wipe my smelly ass with everyday

Best Live show of the Year:

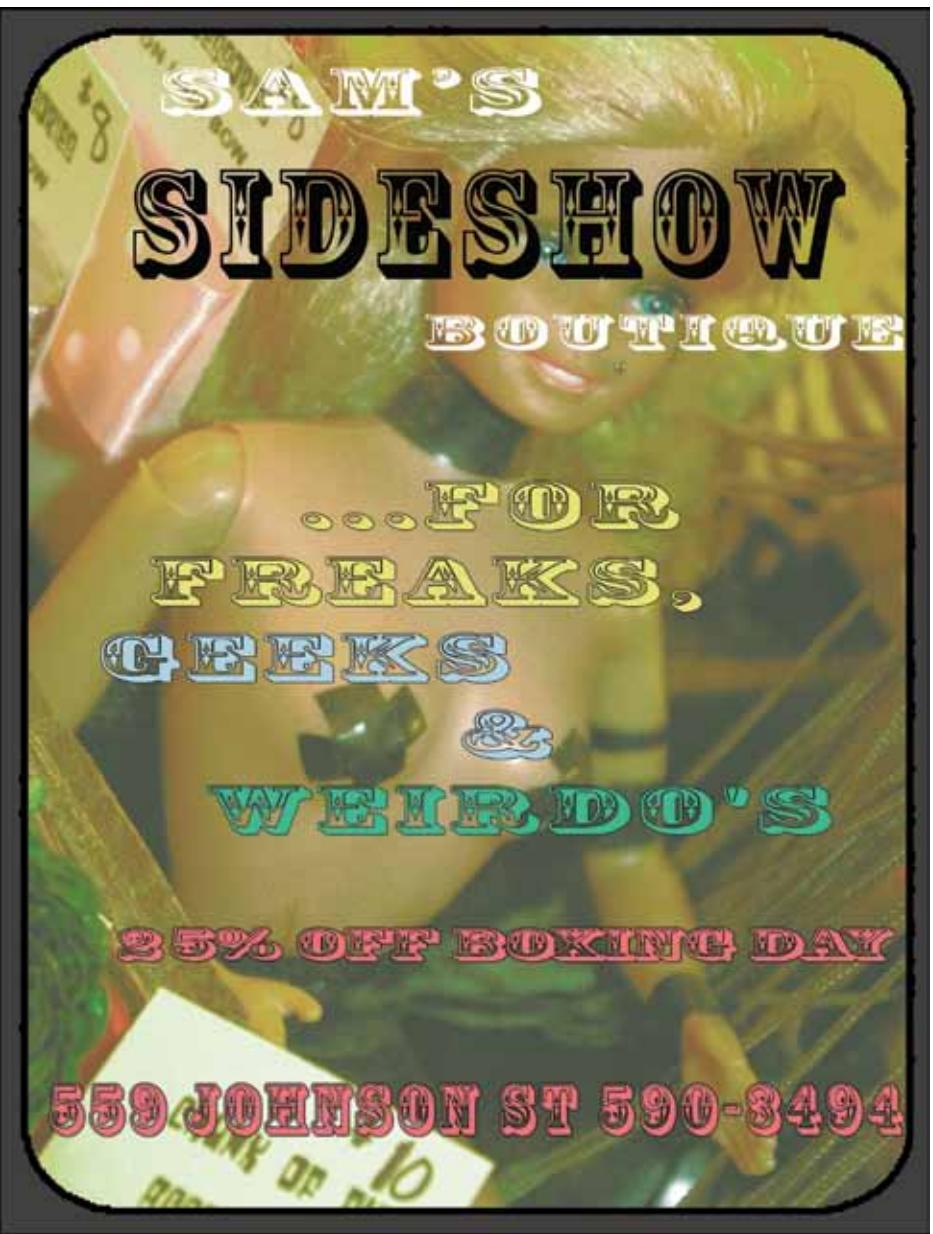
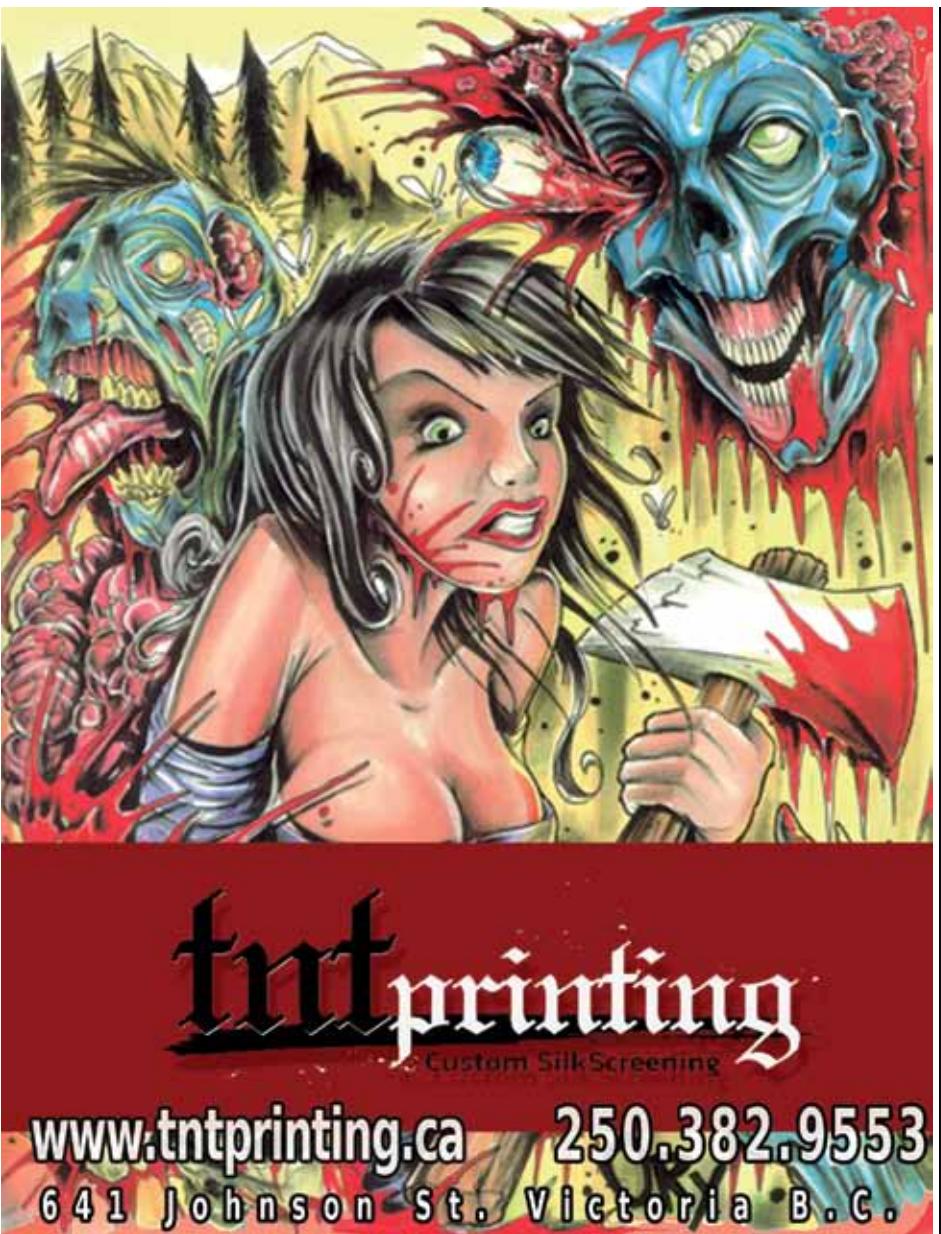
Primal Fear 16.6 (before the devils know your dead)

Honorable mention: Steel Panther

Shittiest Album of the Year:

The Nickelback cd I use to wipe my smelly ass with everyday

Best Live show of the Year:



Noel Noir. Holiday shows in Quebec

So winter is coming and most Montrealers start getting a little uptight and ready to hibernate for the next six months. So far so good, weather wise. Above average temperatures and warm fronts but how long before the snow, eh? The only big to do that we can see thus far, (with the exception of a handful of local shows) would be the Heavy MTL X-Mas show featuring VOIVOD! Let's see who else is playing around the holidays? Right, Brutal Truth and Municipal Waste @ Foufs, Arch Enemy with legendary thrash icons Exodus along with openers Arsis @ Club Soda. Oh yeah, here's a weird line-up, The Dillinger Escape Plan opening for Thursday? I don't get that one but whatever. So what else? Well, rock n' roll monoliths' Priestess have launched a new album and it kicks major butt hole. Be sure to check out a sample or two at: www.myspace.com/priestessband or www.priestessband.com. Also in the new album department is The Great Sabatini's new CD and it's killer! A little more worked on than the last one. The Sabs are launching the album this November 28th at the new Katacombes (1635 St-Laurent - www.myspace.com/katacombes) along with some local bands, mine being one of them (Qualor). Check their new tunes at: www.myspace.com/thesabatini.

myspace.com/thesabatini. So what else has been happening? Well T.O.'s legendary drunk punx Armed and Hammered played a re-union show at the Café Chaos (2031 Rue Saint-Denis - www.cafechaos.qc.ca). With the exception of poor attendance (it was a Sunday and little promotion) AAH blasted out the past with their unique brand of detructo core. A little older, a little more haggard but still spot on! Another Tarana invasion but this time from an old Montrealite - Corpuse did an exclusive performance on Halloween here at the Soundcentral (www.soundcentralstore.com) where he along with keyboardist Lorenz (who moonlights on the side with his own band called the Bay Of Creatures) scared and delighted its audience. Everything from spitting on the floor and ceiling (yeah, I



this month that they'll be closing their doors for good at the end of this year. First the Spectrum, now Le Medley.

Le Medley was home to most BCI shows. What will become of the space, no one knows for sure yet. On another note, Drool from Random Killing, who's made Montreal his home now for at least the last five or so years, will be a permanent fixture here at the SOUND. He'll be renting a

MONTRÉAL MASSACRE

portion of the back store for a studio for his art. I guess he needs a little retreat from the family. Not to mention the bun in the oven and it's due in a matter of weeks. Congrats guys! So it looks like Soundcentral is slowly becoming a cross between an old age home for geriatric punks and the Flintstone's moose lodge.

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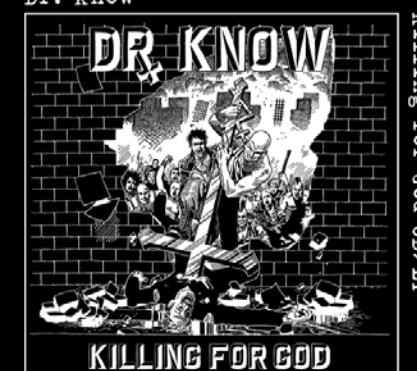
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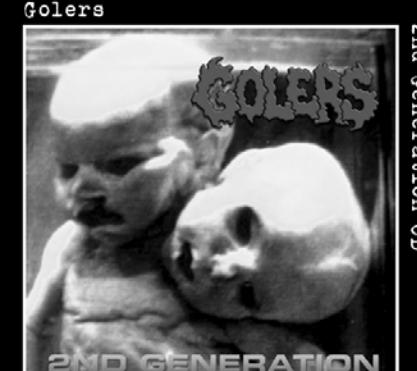
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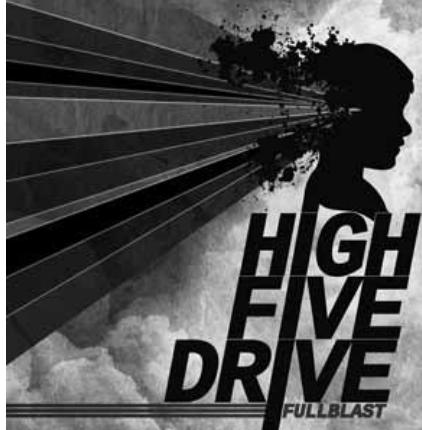
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"Esteem driven engine"

Interview with: Greg Rekus
– Vocals & Guitar

By: Pauly Hardcore

Greg Rekus vocal guitar
Marty LaFreniere vocal guitar

Steve Jowsey vocal drum

Steve Nelson Bass

Absolute Underground:
We spoke earlier and you
mentioned a "rough year or so"
- what's been going on in HFD
land?



Greg Rekus: We did our first music video this year and then a bit more than a month of touring in Canada and a bit more than a month in Europe as well. June 1 - reality kinda hit me in the face and we got the bill for all the fun we've been having the last few years. I've been back at work ever since and it sucks! The new record just isn't selling. I guess this is kinda across the board in the music industry so I can't cry too much.

AU: With the loss of numerous venues in 'peg - how do you see the scene affected?

Greg: As long as the Albert is still around it will be fine. Ultimately we will always find some kinda a place to play. On our first Euro tour one show was

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or so. If the next tour left tomorrow I would drop everything!

AU: What's the story behind the name?

Greg: There are a few. My fav is someone thought it was the high five drive. If you high five someone but had to drive there to do it that would be the high five drive. Before Stevo our bass player joined the band he thought it was a reference to 5th gear on a transmission. Really I just thought it sounded cool.

AU: What is the writing process like for the band?

Greg: Sometimes Marty or I write a song and bring it to practice and hack at it till it sounds good. Lately we have just been jamming random shit then once we have about 10 parts together we put words to it. Sometimes we bang our heads against the wall till some music falls out and see if we can make a song out of that. Sometimes we just have a smoke and see what happens.

AU: How many albums have you put out and do you have your latest, Fullblast. Do you have label support?

Greg: We have three albums out right now and we are on three labels in Europe. Fond of life in Germany and UK, No reason in Italy and Bad mood in Switzerland! They are all super awesome and have great bands on the rosters! Our new one, well it's super fucking good! It's not the end all and be all of alternative music or the most mathy thing this side of choke or the most metal next to maiden, but I really like it and am really proud of it. It has a lot of personal shit we have gone through since the last record and I really boned up on guitar playing to try to blow the other records we did out of the water.

AU: Last words for the hellions?

Greg: Yeah we have been demoing some new stuff. Nothing ready to release or anything, just getting some ideas down so we can keep writing new stuff. The goal is to have 20 songs ready for the new record and keep only the best of the best.

highfivedrive.com
myspace.com/highfivedrive



RANDOM KILLING

by Uncle Anus

I'm outside Sneeky Dee's at College and Bathurst St. with Random Killing, who are playing the Armed and Hammered 20th Anniversary show tonight. Unfortunately we are empty handed as our drinks are inside and we are outside smoking a variety of good stuff. After almost 25 years of their own, this band can be tough to get together these days as singer Drool now lives in Montreal.

Absolute Underground: Hey guys, thanx for your time.

Drool: Hey. Before we start this, can we trade joints? I want a taste of that hash.

Mudd: None for me thanks, I'm driving.

Everyone: Booooo!

AU: 25 Years. Wow.

Drool: And we've never stopped.

AU: Will you ever?

Drool: Why would we? Rusty Talent: It just feels too

good to stop.

Mudd: I think Drool actually 'needs' this band. Without some kind of primal screaming outlet of frustration he would be...

Drool: Dead or in Jail. I'm serious. If I hadn't been screaming into a microphone once a week for the last 20 years I would most likely be one or the other.

AU: Are there any new RK recordings in the works?

Mudd: Ha-ha-ha! Is that a joke?

Rusty Talent: Yeah, we've been working on it for a while now.

Drool: But that's punk rock!

Rusty Talent: Everything is finished except the guitar tracks.

Drool: Always waiting for the guitar tracks!

Mudd: Waiting like 2.5 years!

Rusty Talent: Fuck Off!

AU: Random Killing has not toured the west coast since the early 90's. Do you have something against playing in the west?

Drool: Nah, we loved it out west. It just seems too hard to get good shows between here and there to make it.

Rusty Talent: Too hard?

Mudd: More like too lazy!

Drool: I'll show you my sympathy hump for a drink! Seriously though, I'm very proud of becoming a father.

AU: Yeah, how did that happen anyways? We all know the classic RK hit 'Kicked in the Nuts'!

Drool: While most guys turn who turn 40 buy a fast car, I

the world.

AU: How does the hash we are smoking tonight compare?

Drool: Actually, this is pretty fucking good too!

(Everyone laughs in agreement)

AU: What would you like to say to Absolute Underground readers across Canada who may read this?

Everyone: Sneeky Dee's.

Drool: We have a lot of good memories connecting us to this bar. We actually played Armed and Hammered's last show here; we played with Dirty Bird at Sneeky Dee's final show.

AU: And then you opened the bar when they started doing live shows again.

Mudd: Just don't stop enjoying live music.

Rusty Talent: Don't trust anyone over the age of...

Mudd: Ahem!

AU: Forty now?

Rusty Talent: How old are you now Mudd?

Mudd: I tell you what, I'm younger than Steve Goof and that's all I'm gonna say!

Drool: Not by much though!

AU: So what's new with Random Killing in old age?

Mudd: He's having a kid! (Pointing at Drool)

Rusty Talent: That's a scary thought actually!

Some random drunk just coming too under the ATM: You don't look pregnant!

Drool: Fuck, I've smoked all over this fuckin' world!

AU: This whole world has gone insane!

Drool: Exactly! Anyways, saying Amsterdam has the best smoke in the world is so cliché these days. So I am going to say Spain had some of the best hash in

the world.

AU: Other than Random Killing, what should people be listening to?

Mudd: I listen to a lot of Reggae lately.

Rusty Talent: I listen to Robbo cry about not smoking behind his drum kit in clubs. But I wouldn't suggest anyone else listening to him. You're better off just sticking to punk rock.

Drool: You want to see someone real? He's fucked up... but he is totally real. I saw Daniel Johnston play the other night and it was fuckin' great. Everyone should check him out.

AU: Any last words?

Drool: Just fuckin' do it.

Mudd: Peace man!

Everyone: Peace!

Mudd: Yeah man! Never trust an old hippy!

AU: You're stoned.

Mudd: Totally! There is enough second hand smoke hanging around this street corner to keep me from driving for at least a few hours!

Rusty Talent: Hey! Don't be too stoned and forget to tell them about our website!

TORONTO TRASH

We always put a link to the band's website at the bottom of the interview.

Drool: Yeah, but that's for other bands. Random Killing! We are so crazy we put ALL of our music up for free download. So go grab our MP3's!!!

AU: Cool, that about sums up. If you can't go to smoke hash with Drool in Spain, then at least you can smoke yourself silly to some of the best TOHC for the last 25 years.

www.RandomKilling.com
www.myspace.com/therandomkilling

www.waycool-queen.com

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MONTREAL

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DEC 09 Tingrin with A Night At The Chelsea and Oldbury

DEC 11 Sam The Jet with D2K, Walking Is Still Honest, Bitterweed Draw and The MG42's

DEC 12 Mark Of Cain with Akakor, Razor Wing and Ominosity

DEC 16 The Johns

DEC 18 Stab Twist Pull with Diatessaron, Me Three and Grimzen

DEC 19 Dead Neck Fury with State Of Demur, Back Alley Booze and Sanity In Numbers

DEC 20 Truck with The Illustrated

DEC 31 Go For The Eyes with Tweny Centuries Of Stoney Sleep and Me Three

JAN 02 Perdition with Gales of Avalon

JAN 08 Black Top Five

JAN 15 Hats And Black Ties with Caught Off Guard

JAN 16 Dead Girls Don't Sat No with Cast In Stone, Black Reign and Candaria

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From the Tree of Metal
flows Silver Sap

"The fact that the outside world doesn't
understand is fucking wonderful!"
~Dee Snider

Wiping sweat from
the lens of my
camera reminds me of
the first show I
went to this year.
I can't remember
which indie band
was blasting the
shit out of my
hearing, but I do
remember thinking;
"Fuck, these guys
are too good to be
playing this shit
hole." LOL

Yeah, there is a fuck-
wad of good indie
bands out there, these days.

With so many enthusiastic music lovers turning
into show promoters; it is a lot easier to see a
good, local indie band, even when you're under
age. It is encouraging to see new people jumping
into this uncharted territory....the indie scene.

From: magazines, writers, photographers, graphic
artists, radio show hosts, show promoters, sound
guys, street teams, to the most important - fans.
We Salute You!

For keeping the beat of the music scene
throbbing through our veins and minds.

Almost every type of popular music has their
roots in metal...oh, good music. lol.

If you haven't already seen Victoria's infamous
Metal-A Headbanger's Journey, you sure as shit
better! In Sam Dunn's, anthropological study into

the history of Metallineage you will see the great

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Krissi Steele

METAL N' BUDZ

Tree of Metal drawn out before your eyes.
"Drop the Hammer" - the What, Why and You
of Metal, Marijuana & Mycology was created to
showcase the Indie talent oozing from the Metal
Tree.

DJ Splif & I have interviewed lots of raunchy,
rowdy bands from across Canada.

Having been a bass player, singer and sound
tech for the last 17 years, DJ Splif saw a
lot of bands while on the road. His insider
experience pushes the interview to a deeper
level.

With their roots in Original Heavy Metal
1966-Mos Generator to Progressive
Metal 1970-LIPHT, Original Hard Rock
1974-Hollywood Assassin, Early Punk
1976-The Dastardlie, Pop Metal
1978-Jezibelle, Original Hardcore
1980-Tribune, First Wave of Black
Metal 1981-Pentacaust, Thrash Metal
1983-Bloodloss, Metalcore 1985~
Mendoza, Death Metal 1985~Necrotrench,
Grindcore 1987-Prophet Filfilled are a few of
the indie metal bands we have moshed to over
the past year. What about you???

The Devious Dead Open Air Event Army is
currently recruiting all things rotten that want
to kick aZz and be a part of metal history! With a
variety of genres being represented during the
event, 2010 promises to be a scorcher.
Far beyond our imagination lies new genres of
metal being pioneered out there everyday by the
amazing amount of raw talent waiting to devour
us all!

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Krissi Steele

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THE KILZ

AHH DA BEEYAS

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RETALIATE

BONE EXPLOSION

RAT PACK

PUBLIC DEFECATION

GLOBAL WARMING

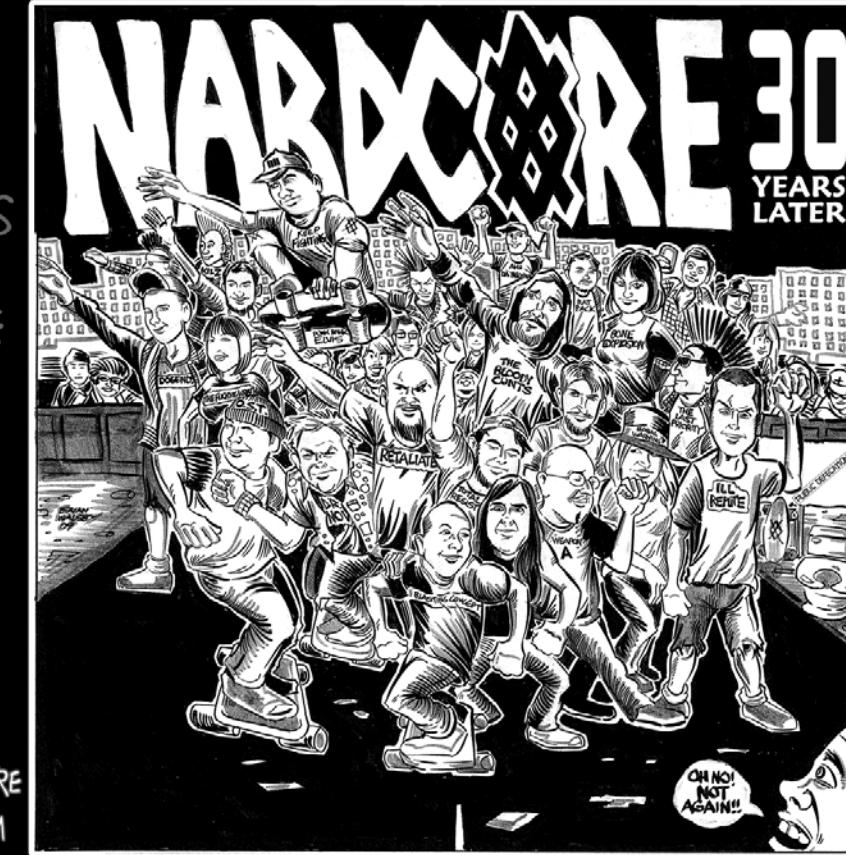
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HARDCORE ALLEY

AU: Can we expect to see you guys come
through Canada in support of the new album?

Kurt: You know, I hope so but
unfortunately it has always been such
a pain in the ass. We have all kinds of
border horror stories and I don't know
why but Canada and England are the
two hardest places for Americans to go.
So we get taxed on ALL our merch
for the whole tour...so we have to
spend so much just to get over it's
really not worth it and it's unfortunate
because some of our greatest shows

have been here.

AU: What have been some of your favorite
places to play?

Kurt: One of my favorites in Canada was in
Montreal on St. Catherine street called Salle
deluxe, it was just a really dingy, grimy DIY punk
club, I think it was under a record store in the

basement and I mean the way it was laid out was
awesome, there was the bar/balcony behind you
but it was so people's feet were at chest level
on the stage so you have this crowd of people

in front of you & then 3/4 wrapped around you
there's people hanging off the stage, so I mean,
you feel like you are playing in Thunderdome or
something, it was just pure chaos! And Montreal
truly was a home away from home for us

throughout the history of the band; our bassist
went to McGill University so we actually spent a
lot of time there. Aside from that, we really enjoy
going out to Japan & Australia because they are
really different from what we're accustomed to.

Playing in the US just seems like work whereas
when we go to Asia or something, it is really
about the travel and adventure...We'll be hitting
New Zealand for the first time ever this year &
we're pretty excited.

AU: Parting Shots?

Kurt: Buuurp!! Thanks dude, much appreciated!



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CONVERGE "the dark horse
rides tonight"

Interview with: Kurt Ballou

By: Pauly Hardcore

In late 2009 Salem Massachusetts' Converge
released Axe to Fall, a highly touted & anticipated
addition to their already staggeringly impressive
back catalog. They also hit the road w/ pals
Mastodon & Dethklok where I got the chance to
hash out what's been going on in their universe
with guitarist & co-founding member Kurt Ballou.

**Absolute Underground: What can we be
expecting from your new album, Axe to Fall?**

Kurt: Well, it is really a guitar driven record, more
than what we've done in the past. Every time with
a new record we're trying to create something
that is artistically fulfilling to us & something
we'd enjoy listening to. We're not trying to create
something that is marketable.

**AU: Artistically, is Jacob responsible for most
everything?**

Kurt: Yeah, you know we try and keep those
aspects of the band internal. So not just the
album artwork, but the print ads or the bulk of
the t-shirts, online banners & basically everything
that has to do with the visual side of the band.

Jake does; it's just the aesthetic that we are used
to and you know, who better to know the artistic
side of the band then a member. We got our start
in the DIY hardcore scene not really with a desire
to do that, but out of necessity because you
know, nobody else was gonna do it for us. Even
with this tour you know, everyone is in a bus -

we're in a Van, that's just how we feel comfortable.
Like with our videos in the past, something that's
beyond our realm of expertise we've had to get
other people to make them, and you know, we sit
back and say "how does this video represent the
band" and I mean they've been okay, but it's just
not us & it doesn't because it is someone else's
interpretation of us. That's why we like to keep
everything internal.

**AU: How did you guys approach the writing
process this time around?**

Kurt: Well you know, there's always no rules –
some of the songs were born 5 years ago just
jamming with the Cave In guys, some are real
spontaneous you know right before we went into
the studio, some are just riffs I've been dwelling
on for months, some evolve out of a drum beat,
or even a lyric. You know with a lot of metallic
hardcore bands it winds up just being a "riff
soup" in the key of open C or open D, whatever
they tune to & the way the songs develop is
chronological to the construction of the riff, as
opposed to just crafting a good song. We always
try and keep the process for each song a little
different, so that each song sort of exists in & of
itself.

**AU: I heard you had approached Epitaph/
Anti in regards to the title of a new album, I
believe it was what became No Heroes but you
brought them the title "the Rapist"**

Kurt: Haha yeah, funny thing about that – it was
an old Saturday night live sketch w/ Sean Connery
doing a spoof on Jeopardy where the category
was "therapist" but he kept saying Rapist, so I
think we were just fucking around with them &
they believed us so we sort of ran with it for a
little bit, but we would never call a record that.

**AU: Fans tend to cling to certain records
& although all your records should
be appreciated for what they are,
uncompromising & sincere, some tend to just
stand out & for me, re-discovering Jane Doe &
how amazing it makes me think it was under
appreciated for its time as it is truly a near
flawless record.**

Kurt: Thank-you so much, wow. You know that's

the first record that we did that we
were all really proud of. You know even
though we were a band for about 10
years before we did that record it was the
formative years, learning to play our instruments
together etc and our output prior to
that had glimmers of goodness but I
think starting with that record is when
we actually became a good band so for us,
you know - that was a landmark record
and where we sort of came into our own. You know I can appreciate
that fans sort of hold onto that record more so
than our others, but as an artist and musician, I
don't want to be stuck in 2001 for the rest of my
life so we're always trying to create new music &
go other places we haven't gone before while still
maintaining the essence that is Converge.

**AU: Your live performances are renowned
for being chaotic & intense, is it a cathartic
experience?**

Kurt: Oh definitely! We're driven to play & create
music. We don't have a planned out theatrical
presentation or anything like that; we just have
a need to express ourselves. There's angst &
aggression & you know, life can be hard and you
need some kind of outlet for that otherwise you
start finding unhealthy & inappropriate outlets
& performing is ours, we don't need to seek out
other means to escape.

AU: So you own your own studio?

Kurt: Yeah it's what I do professionally. We've
recorded our last few albums there. I'm currently
recording the new Trap Them album, which is so
good by the way - they have the former drummer
for Coliseum with them right now and they are
really coming into their own. I recorded Nate's
other band, Doom Riders' new album recently
which is really rad – it's almost like a pop record,
but you know, heavy. I've also recorded Torche,
Genghis Tron, Disfear, Lewd Acts...
Kurt: Buuurp!! Thanks dude, much appreciated!

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Continued from page 9

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

1 guy 1 cup honorable mention:

Hatchet vs. Genital

Best New Band in your local scene:

Hrom

Best tattooist you know:

My main man Jason Dionne

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:

That chick that does enema art

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Anything Demonika puts on

Shock of the Year:

Octomom!

Douche of the Year:

Kanye West

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Calgary council

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Metal, chicks, weed, and gore...very nice!



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Sean Farren Bass and vocals in death metal band Mark Of Cain and powerviolence band Gummers.

Favorite Local Band:

I hope Red Deer counts because I'm going to say Kali. Those guys play some sweet powerviolence.

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Deadneck Fury - Still Fighting.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

A Textbook Tragedy - Intimidator or Shai Hulud - Misanthropy Pure.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

I think Absolute Underground is awesome. It's sweet to have something that focuses on this shit in our neighbourhood, I've found out about some sweet things coming through or out of my town from here. Keep up the good work!

Good for lighting fires, rolling huge joints, huge snort bills, ass wipe,



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Dustin Jak, Skateboarder, father, tattooist, musician, vandal.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:

Start With The Cobra / Zap Straps

Best Punk Album of the Year:

New Slayer

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

New Slayer

Best Metal Album of the Year:

New Slayer

Shittiest Album of the Year:

Teagan and Sara

Best Live show of the Year:

Michael Schenker Group @ Element.

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Kylie Minogue at Discord. I don't party much but this guy blew me away with his noise performance when he came through town from Scotland.

Douche of the Year:

That "hope they serve beer in hell" guy I guess. I don't know, I'm seriously behind on douchebag culture. Who's the reigning douchebag king?

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Well there was this one time I stuck my dick in a chicken. Ohhh that doesn't say clusterfuck? well shit...

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

I think Absolute Underground is awesome. It's sweet to have something that focuses on this shit in our neighbourhood, I've found out about some sweet things coming through or out of my town from here. Keep up the good work!

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ARCH ENEMY

The Root Canal Of All Evil

Interview with: Angela Gossow (vocals)

by Ira Hunter

Assists by Erik Lindholm & Pauly Hardcore

Absolute Underground: Angela! How are you today?

AU: What do you consider to be the root of all evil?

Angela: I am good thank you! How are you?

AU: I apologize I just have to find my

questions, one second.

Angela: No problem (chuckle)

AU: OK! I've got them here I just have to print them off (muttering to himself) "this is so unprofessional" Did your tooth heal up?

Angela: Yeah I'm fine. I actually broke a tooth off on the Mexico tour. They have a really funny fruit there with really hard pits, hard as stone, but small ones. I bit into this fruit really hard and smashed a tooth. That's what you get when you try new things in assorted places with no dentist around... well not a dentist you really want to see. (laughs)

AU: It didn't stop the tour did it?

Angela: No, I mean it was fixed in 3 days. I never have anything happen when I'm at home it always happens when I'm really far away on tour.

AU: These are some questions my friend Eric helped me write. He's our metal guy but he's in Afghanistan right now, he's in the Navy.

Angela: Oh no way!

AU: Yeah we're just hoping he comes back to us. But it's like the Canadian Navy so he's probably just sitting behind a desk. So the new album "The Root Of All Evil" is a selection of songs from throughout Arch Enemy's catalogue which you are re-recording.

why we have it there on the cover of the album - it's envy and greed, though we mean it to be the root of Arch Enemy.

AU: Speaking of roots, do you garden at home or on the road?

Angela: Haha - how do you garden on the road? Do you speak of the cannabis plants on the back of the bus? That's kind of gardening I suppose. Haha. All we do is plant the evil seed of Heavy Metal all over the place.

AU: So you enjoy a spliff from time to time?

Angela: Oh absolutely!

AU: We got to see Carcass at Waken in Germany two years ago and you came out and did a special song. What's the connection with you and Carcass?

Angela: I'm in love with him; I mean, I'm a huge Carcass fan. I got into Metal in the 80's & 90's and I got hooked on Carcass. Michael, he is in both bands. The idea kind of came up the day before Wacken. He asked me if I wanted to help him sing the song, because Arch Enemy actually covered it earlier on in our career.

AU: What music are you listening to these days?

Angela: I'm an oldschool metalhead, you develop a relationship with the bands you grew up with, so Carcass, Morbid Angel, Obituary... When you're young you have an emotional relationship with these bands, they help you through a lot of hard times. With newer bands I struggle to find that relationship.

AU: Any final words for Canadian metal fans?

Angela: Keep up the weed and blast true fucking Metal!

www.archenemy.net

www.myspace.com/archenemy



AU: What do you do to make those crazy vocals? Were you professionally trained?

Angela: I just sort of did my own thing for ten years, but then when the band started to get serious I thought maybe I had to develop a vocal routine and training. I learned breathing techniques because I had no clue and was doing it all wrong. Going out on the road for weeks at a time is so hard on you. So I learned the whole abdominal breathing and throat relaxation, but I think the best training I get is by going out there and playing shows.

AU: What was it like growing up in Germany?

Angela: Well it was quite Liberal, very Democratic. I almost think equality is more prominent in Germany than it is in the U.S. I grew up like a tomboy, I have two brothers. I was the oldest so I was always shouting at everyone to clean their rooms. I think that's where I got my loud voice from.

AU: What was the first Metal album that really made you want to be in a Heavy Metal band?

Angela: "Reign in Blood" from Slayer!

AU: Have you played with Slayer?

Angela: Once or twice. Kerry King will make anybody drink Jagermeister, even me and I hate that stuff.

AU: Isn't Jager cough medicine in Germany?

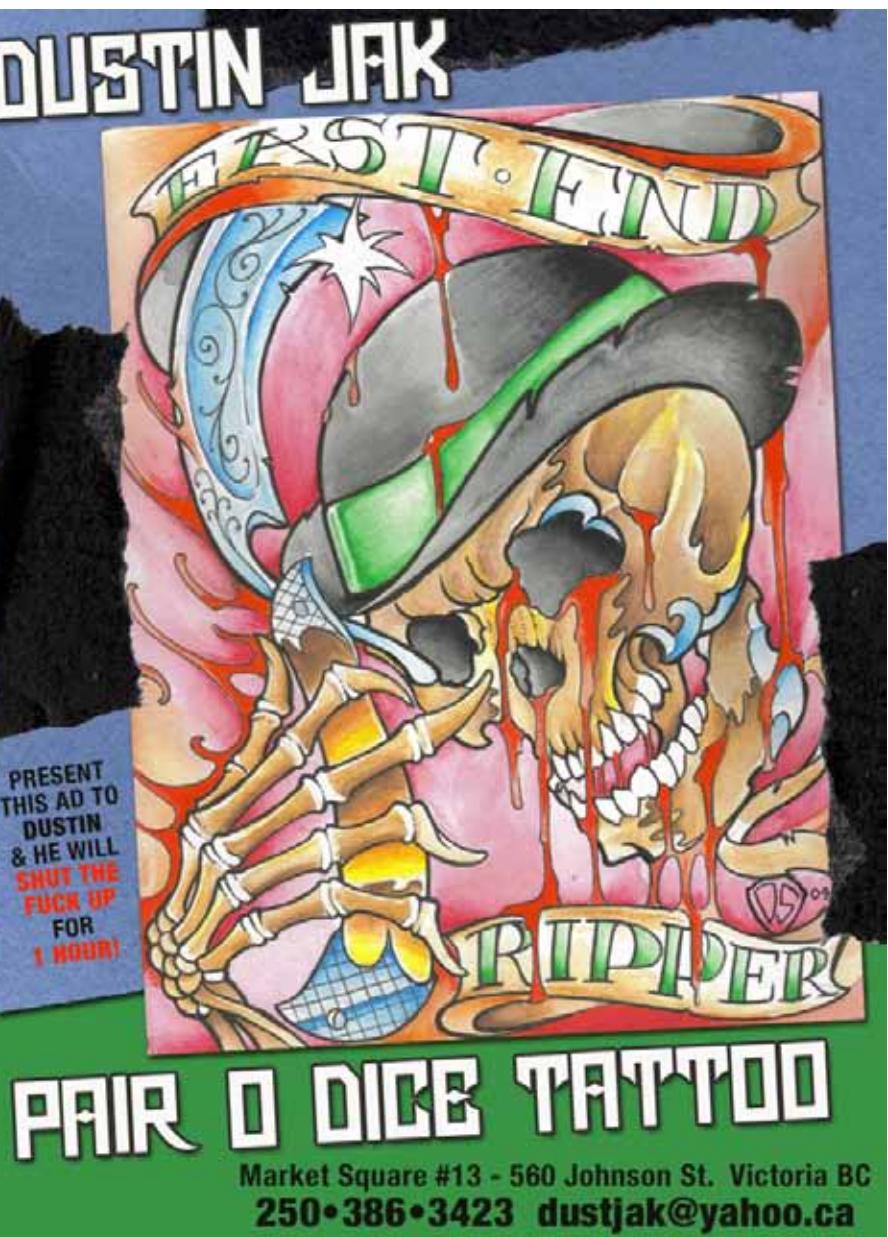
Angela: Yes that's the thing, in Germany it is medicinal - it assists in digestion after eating heavy foods, it is a bit like medicine and nobody there would think of it as a party drink.

AU: Any final words for Canadian metal fans?

Angela: Keep up the weed and blast true fucking Metal!

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Jeff Tek

Best Punk Album of the Year:
Priestess' new album on Indica Records

Shittiest Album of the Year:
Anything by Simple Plan

Best Metal Album of the Year:
Final Trigger - Skrap Metal

Shittiest Album of the Year:
Blood on the Snow

Best New Band in your local scene:
The Great Sabatini

Best skater you know:
Tats by Nat (Imago, MtI)

Best skater you know:
Dean Marttinen

Best Event/Party of the Year:
Drag Me to Hell

Best New Band in your local scene:
Terrachargers

Best tattooist you know:
Seeing our 45 Kicked in the Nuts selling for 199.00 on ebay

Best of the Year:
Pat Martin

Clustercrack of the Year:
Uncle Costa's staircase, and the back room at Sound Central (Montreal's most awesomest record shop)

Who are you and what are you best known for?
Jef Tek. Growing the finest, most potent, delectable, medicinal marijuana in the northern hemisphere - possibly the world. With all modesty.

Who are you and what are you best known for?
Necrotrench.

Best Punk Album of the Year:
Let the Dominoes Fall: Rancid

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:
World Painted Blood - Slayer

Best Metal Album of the Year:
The Hated House Halloween Party

Shock of the Year:
The BONITOS

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Continued from page 17

Best skater you know:

Dustin Schwam

Best Event/Party of the Year:

VIHC FEST 5 hands down!

Shock of the Year:

The Montreal Canadiens not winning the Cup in their 100th year & the lack of turnout for VIHC Fest 5.

Douche of the Year:

All the idiots in town who ruined ALL of our all ages venues, leaving us with nowhere to put on shows.

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Trying to get shows going @ the [insert all ages venue here]

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

I'm proud to be a part of the best Independent publication in Canada & really excited about AU TV!

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Every day is like a party when you tend to 49 lovely ladies, sometimes naked! (OK, Mostly Naked!)

Shock of the Year:

Lady Ga Ga

Douche of the Year:

The word Douche for being used over 79 times this year on prime-time television, which becomes increasingly funnier in conjunction with the innocuous word Bag. (also See #6)

Clusterfuck of the Year:

The International Olympic Committee, for unreasonable demands & for disallowing Women's Ski Jumping, and being a general (see last question).

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

The truth, you can't handle the truth! OK, here it is - straight: Lots of men and women suffer and sweat to bring you the metal and the shows we love. Absolute Underground is a vessel, or better yet, a vehicle for bringing the punk, hardcore, and metal worlds together. If you print it they will COME! Peace, Metal & Buds.

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Let the Dominoes Fall: Rancid

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

World Painted Blood - Slayer

Best Metal Album of the Year:

The Hated House Halloween Party

Shock of the Year:

The BONITOS

Clustercrack of the Year:

Uncle Costa's staircase, and the back room at Sound Central (Montreal's most awesomest record shop)



What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

It doesn't smear the crap around on my ass like NOW magazine does.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

My name is Drol and I cannot answer the question on the grounds that it may incriminate me...

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:

In Tzero the Groopies, in MtI, Truth or Scare

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Uncle Anus, Dirty Bird singer and Absolute Underground, Toronto.

Favorite Local Band:

Pinerider

Best Punk Album of the Year:

MDC / Restarts split CD - Mobocracy

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

3-Tards - 333 Halfway To Hell

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Final Trigger - Skrap Metal

Shittiest Album of the Year:

Insert name of your band's album here.

Best Live show of the Year:

Dirty Bird returns to Montreal - Chaos Fest 6

Best Movie of the Year:

THE NEW ACCEPT ALBUM

Shittiest Album of the Year:

Any psycho silly shit, it's so unsavory it makes goth look threatening.

Best Live show of the Year:

Fireworks with Bloodshot Bill Bob Scott and Friends on halloween night

Best Movie of the Year:

I DIDN'T CATCH THE TITLE BUT IT ONLY COST A QUARTER

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

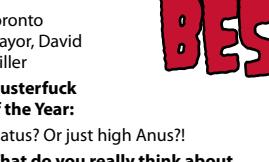
THE SEXXXORIST

Best New Band in your local scene:

THE BONITOS

Best tattooist you know:

DENNIS or DUSTIN



BEST OF 2009

Best skater you know:

That kid with the mush mouth gimmick, what's his name? The deer man of the dork woods! He rules!!!

Clustercrack of the Year:

DIRTY BIRD
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nature of our modern world – the synthetic aspects of modern society. How much of what we create on a day-to-day basis is truly permanent? And how much is merely made to be thrown away? How much is both? How much of it is good for us, and how much is truly toxic?

Absolute Underground:
Can you fill me in a bit more on your particular upbringing, ie: no plastic, etc?

Sally Dige Jørgensen:
Through determination to avoid plastic, certain metals and technologies that we allowed ourselves to be exposed to become very minimal, which subsequently resulted in a complex lifestyle.

AU: How do you think that has influenced your art and your music?

Vanessa Turner:

Through our health-extreme

upbringings both of us

became fascinated with

how manufacturing and

naturalization impacts the

human condition.

SJ:

We are interested in

reflecting in our music and

art that which is true to our

generation: dominating

this generation are

artificial tangible forms

and superficial, distant

and "fake" relationships,

i.e. facebook and online networking. We enjoy

most to glamorize this lifestyle our generation has

manifested and thus have come up with our own

Petroleum By-Product manifesto:

"Denaturalize – Dehumanize – Efficient Lives –

Commercialize"

AU: Petroleum By-Product is really a sort of

code-word for plastic; are you referring more to the destruction of our physical environment with synthetic-based trash or the permutation of disposable trash in our society and in our popular culture?

Robin Borawski: I refer the plastic concept to society. People would rather use facebook or text messages for a primary source of communication, rather than using a phone or meeting up in person.

VT: It's more of a reference to how the masses are a 'by-product' of a trashy petroleum-based monoculture.

AU - Do you consider your music to be disposable?

SJ: In a way yes. I should hope all artists see their work to be something disposable or "temporary," because I find the most interesting and creative artists are the ones who can continually reinvent themselves (or their art).

RB: In a sense, all pop music is disposable, and we like to think we have a pop aspect to our music. So I would say yes.

VT: We did vinyl because it has a better sound, there's a growing market for it, and there's more room for art. CDs are obsolete and deteriorate faster than vinyl and anyone can do it.

SJ: We went with what is commercial today. Nowadays, releasing music on vinyl IS commercial and the digital download makes for a consumer-friendly and efficient addition.

AU: Did you know that PVC (polyvinyl chloride, what records are made from) is the most hazardous petroleum by-product we've ever come up with?

RB: I didn't know that, but that is hilarious.

AU: When PVC burns, the smoke that emanates causes a chemical reaction in our lungs that turns the water to hydrochloric acid. Isn't that insane?

SJ: It is.

RB: Wow, I guess our album can be used as a chemical warfare weapon. I guess that is kind of terrible, but funny at the same time.

VT: Yeah! I suppose we won't say "hot new album" when advertising it...

Petroleum By-Product

By Liam Lux

Think about plastic for just one second. What it is and what it's come to mean to us. Plastic is perhaps the most pragmatic invention in human history. It's so useful that we can make anything out of it. Anything. And it's so cheap that we can just throw anything we make from it away. Like it was never there.

Problem is, plastic never really goes away. It's garbage – it's indestructible garbage. There is nothing in our natural environment that can break plastic down. So every cheap throwaway thing we've ever made from it still survives, somewhere, in some form, suffocating our environment(s) – physical, social, and psychological.

Plastic is also toxic. Toxic waste, to be exact. It's the number-one by-product of petroleum processing. As their name suggests, Petroleum By-Product enjoy exploring the schizoid nature of plastic, a substance which has become an equally suitable symbol for both the dispensable and the perpetual, especially when it comes to the plastic

ideas by re-using them the same way we conserve the environment by re-using and recycling?

RB: It depends on what kind of idea. In terms of music, I think that all music is recycled, but nothing is ever fully recycled. The product is always just downgraded and requires constant new material to keep the quality up to code.

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The WhiskeyDicks "Friends We Drink With"

By Emily Kendy

Not sure what comes first, being drunk or listening to the WhiskeyDicks, but a night spent doing both is one helluva party. As the head banging cello player Curtass says, "We love friends, we love drinking and we love drinking with friends." The three-piece Celtic gypsy punk rockers, originally from Whitehorse, can be found playing all over Vancouver these days. Though they're probably most well-known for regular gigs at the Atlantic Trap and Gill and Falconetti's East Side Grill – two venues that have become immortalized in their songs; from what can only be construed as a blowjob in the bathroom of the first, to sleeping with the boss's daughter in the second.

"That's not true," singer Ryan explains of the Falconetti's song entitled, "The Godfather"; that leads to a tongue-in-cheek chorus of "don't shit where you eat." According to him the song bears a few double entendres.

"It's about sleeping with your neighbours wife, boss's daughter, or coworker or roommate," he says vaguely. "It's also about how the bathrooms used to be right behind the stage so when people went by us to go the bathroom we'd notice if it took them a long time to get out of there."

A blurred line between truth and fiction and some spectacularly clever lyricism gives their storytelling fresh and unexpected twists, part of what provides the familiar Celtic sound with a modern flavour. The other part is contributed by the musicianship. With Pat Ernst's fiddle and brother Curtis' cello and Ryan on vocals and guitar, it's an Irish hybrid that grabs handfuls of styles from every genre while staying firmly rooted in tradition.

"We try to layer things as much as possible," Ryan says. "The form of Irish music is generally pretty simple so we do complicated things in a simple form but it's not music that's inherently complicated. So the way that we put more artistry in the music is by adding layers."

According to the band this comes from playing up to ten gigs a month together and trying to keep each other engaged in what they're doing. They also have a lot to draw from with each band member's musical diversity. Pat, for example, isn't your average fiddle player. "Patty plays all the fiddle tunes you'll ever want to hear plus he plays

playfulness and having a shit-faced good time. "We're trying to lead by example so we have to be drunk and belligerent and liking music and making it fun to be wherever we are that night," sums up Ryan. This seems to be working like a charm because all band members make a living as musicians, no small feat in this so-called No Fun City. But they're aided by the fact that alcohol and their music is a match made in heaven. Admits the singer, "Ever since I started drinking for a living I've become a workaholic."

(Check out the band's rowdy and hilarious CD, Get'er Done. They play Falconetti's Dec. 11, and The Trap and Gill for New Year's Eve. Myspace.com/thewhiskeydicks)

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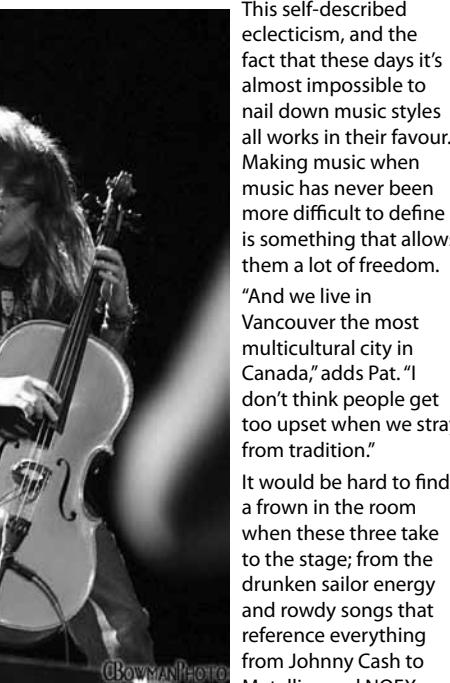
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mariachi music and flamenco and Jazz," says Ryan after all 'fiddler' jokes have been exhausted. "He's a big part of our eclecticism we're famous for."

This self-described eclecticism, and the fact that these days it's almost impossible to nail down music styles all works in their favour. Making music when music has never been more difficult to define is something that allows them a lot of freedom. "And we live in Vancouver the most multicultural city in Canada," adds Pat. "I don't think people get too upset when we stray from tradition."

It would be hard to find a frown in the room when these three take to the stage; from the drunken sailor energy and rowdy songs that reference everything from Johnny Cash to Metallica and NOFX, it's all about brazen

playfulness and having a shit-faced good time. "We're trying to lead by example so we have to be drunk and belligerent and liking music and making it fun to be wherever we are that night," sums up Ryan. This seems to be working like a charm because all band members make a living as musicians, no small feat in this so-called No Fun City. But they're aided by the fact that alcohol and their music is a match made in heaven. Admits the singer, "Ever since I started drinking for a living I've become a workaholic."

(Check out the band's rowdy and hilarious CD, Get'er Done. They play Falconetti's Dec. 11, and The Trap and Gill for New Year's Eve. Myspace.com/thewhiskeydicks)

BERZERKER



Interview with: Todd Berzerker (drums) & Damo (bass)

By: Ira "Crocodile" Hunter
Intro by Lacey Morris

The grotesque latex monster masks and constricting leather gloves may have long since been retired, but extreme Aussie metal band The Berzerker is still delivering the same intensely brutal sound at neck breaking speeds as they were nearly a decade ago with their debut self-titled album. 2008 marked the release of their painfully anticipated fifth album, 'The Reawakening'—and what better way to celebrate a decade of success in the explicit world of underground metal than a North-American tour with one of the most highly regarded names in the history of death metal, Tampa Florida's Obituary.

The greatest appeal with The Berzerker is how they defy so many sub-genres of music: By combining elements of speedcore, grindcore, techno, industrial, and death metal, they have ultimately invented their own distinct metal crossbreed—a vicious hell beast constructed of hypersonic trigger-injected blast beats, mercilessly melodic guitar riffs, and grotesquely brutal grind-inspired death vocals. Front man-vocalist Luke Kenny incorporates industrial sound bits and samples from popular shock films such as *Faces of Death* and *Mondo Cane* into the mass monstrosity of sound to create the ultimate seizure inducing, eardrum puncturing experience. Literally like a shotgun blast to the head, The Berzerker is as fast and brutal as ever. Metal heads who tend to lean more towards the mainstream side of the spectrum will be begging for mercy, while those who prefer metal of a much more

intense nature will be starving for more. These innovatively talented Aussie guys are more than welcome to come back and satisfy our hunger for more of their extreme industrial metal.

Todd Berzerker: COOKIE MONSTER NUMM NUMM NUMM

Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to cookie monster?

Todd: I'm the Cookie Monster, Todd Berzerker.

AU: "WON'T YOU SUCK MY COCK BERZERKER" ... is this band based off the Berzerker song from the movie Clerks?

Todd: No, but we get that all the time and it gets old.

AU: So you don't like Kevin Smith?

Todd: Yeah I love him except for that bit. I liked it until I joined this band, now I don't.

AU: So are you guys friends with Airbourne?

Todd: Uh no, they're just an AC/DC rip-off, no-one in Australia likes Airbourne.

AU: So what's The Berzerker all about?

Todd: Berzerker is all about drinking beer, fucking around, and throwing around balls.

AU: Has anyone successfully fucked a kangaroo without getting kicked to death?

Todd: Kangaroos will beat the fuck out of you. A kangaroo is a better fighter than a boxer.

AU: If you put the gloves on the feet and the paws, just watch out for the tail...

Todd: You'd wanna hog tie the fucking thing and the tail is pretty strong so you'd want to cut his tail off so maybe... no I don't think you can fuck a kangaroo.

AU: Ok so you guys are a bunch of criminals or something?

Damo: No, that's the English, they're criminal for sending us to a better country.

AU: Like Canada gave up Alaska and they gave up Australia?

Damo: Well Australia was their prison colony and they sent us to a better Country... Fucking idiots!

AU: How much beer would you need for a walkabout?

Todd: I couldn't put a number on it cause I don't know how long I'd be walking about for.

AU: Is it true you only have one type of beer, Fosters Lager?

Todd: We don't even drink fosters in Australia. We actually drink everything but Fosters.

AU: Do you carry big knives and say "That's not a knife"?

Todd: No, not at all.

AU: Have you partied with Paul Hogan?

Todd: NO! Paul Hogan lives in LA or some shit, he lives in America!



AU: Describe your sound for the people

Todd: It's basically Industrial Death Metal Grindcore - mixing Ministry on fast-forward. It's Digital Hardcore crossed with Extreme Death Metal.

AU: Clown Metal?

Todd: It's like circus metal. Mr. Bungle meets Slipknot meets Death Metal.

AU: What else is going on in Australia?

Todd: Lots of things man...BBQ's.

AU: Do you eat kangaroo?

Todd: Yeah we do and it's delicious! You just knock em with your car and eat them.

AU: If we were to travel to any city in Australia, where are the best metal shows?

Todd: I'd go to Brisbane cause I'm from there and it's the best city. Steve Irwin's zoo is like an hour and a half north from Brisbane.

AU: Has a girl ever told you "Put it in me dumper"?

Todd: Nope, never.

AU: What would you do if she said that?

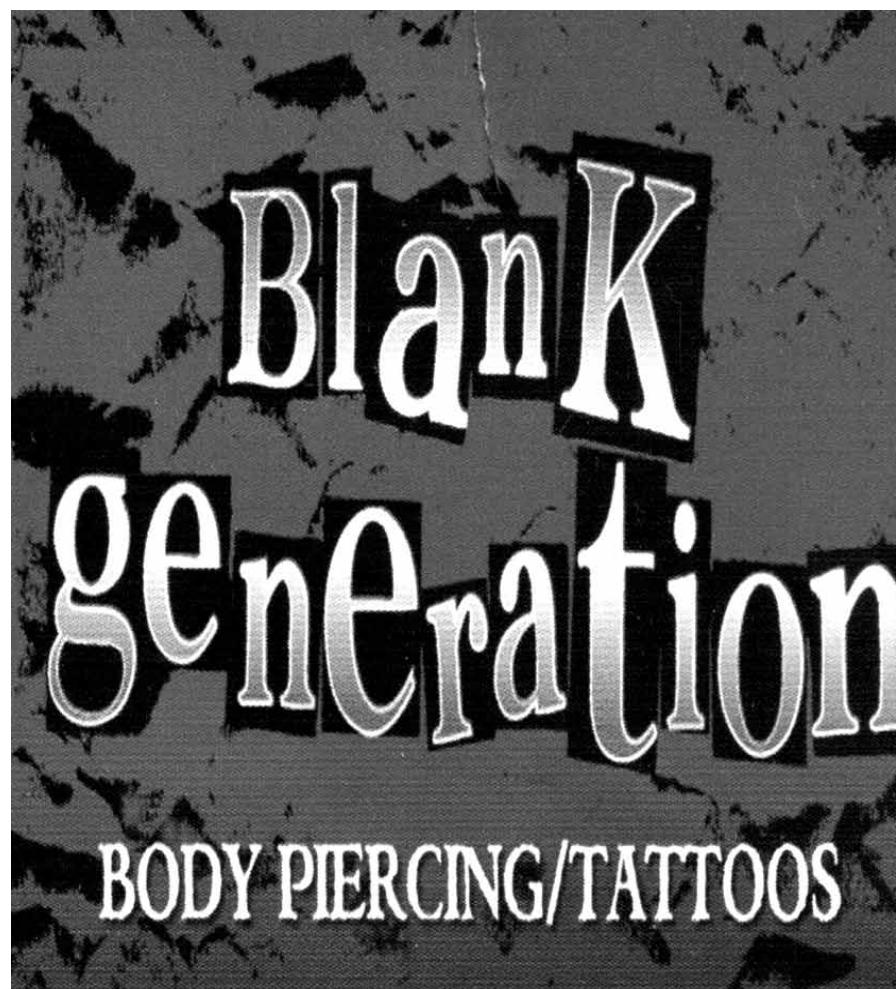
Todd: I'd put it in her dumper!

AU: Final words for people back in Victoria?

Todd: Victoria is a state of Australia, so good night Australia!

Damo: Listen to grindcore and support Australian Death Metal and mosh, fucking mosh.

myspace.com/theberzerker



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 Fri 4 - Profits of Crime CD Release w/ Ground Up, Back Alley Boozers & The Oh Shit Show!
 Sat 5 - RAYGUN COWBOYS w/ Press Gang, The Deadmen, The Oh Shit Show, Black Earth & Replacement Hip
 Thurs 10 - Reverend Kill w/ Nosis & Warbird
 Fri 11 - Silentpanic w/ Marija & The Wicked
 Sat 12 - DEMONIKAS BLACK MARKET X-MAS II - Everything Your Mothers X-mas Craft sales Are NOT! Sales noon-7. Bands 9-close.
 Thurs 17 - Punktured, The Ramble & Alleycat Blues
 Fri 18 - TurboNegro Tribute, The Gaze & The Roaring 40s
 Sat 19 - PLAID TONGUED DEVILS w/ Diatessaron & Wayfarer
 Sat 26 - Solid Gold & guests
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JANUARY

Thurs 7 - Chris Naish & Wasted Nights w/ Arkhams Inmates
 Sat 9 - Exit Strategy w/ Cast in Stone & Megido
 Thurs 14 - Crime Scene Infunktigation
 Fri 15 - Stab.Twist.Pull Cd Release
 Sat 16 - Lies From Elysium CD Release w/ This City Defects & Jezibelle
 Thurs 21 - Moka Only
 Fri 22 - Got Beats? Producer beat battle. see our site for details
 Sat 23 - The Last Act CD Release
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SIGH

Interview with vox.synths
 Mirai Kawashima

By Dr. Dyer

Although they are one of Japan's first black metal bands, SIGH's first introduction to many was Sam Dunn's Global Metal, in which Mirai Kawashima gives a few comments on Japan's visual kei phenomenon after Marty Friedman proclaims his love for ballads and pandas. No, SIGH are not your usual spiky haired, cartoon character looking Asian band. With dark sonicscapes inspired by mushrooms, horror and dark mythology and a female member who drinks cow's blood, SIGH may seem bizarre and fanatical, but I just see it as fun before a cockroach breakfast...



are utilized?

Mirai - Actually the real trumpet was used on Hangman's Hymn, but most of the orchestral instruments on it were played through MIDI. For this time, we used trumpet, trombone, french horn, tuba, euphonium, flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, violin, viola, cello, etc. It was not easy at all to deal with those instruments.

Especially mixing was a truly tough process because those orchestral instruments and so-called rock/metal instruments could kill each other's powerfulness. It took almost whole three months to get the best result, but anyway I'm 100% content with the way it turned to be. It sounds way more vivid and powerful than Hangman's Hymn's orchestration.

AU - Scorn Defeat was recently reissued, are you hoping to get a few other early releases out the same way?

Mirai - Very soon, Infidel Art triple vinyl and Ghastly Funeral Theatre vinyl will

be released on The Crypt. Hail Horror Hail vinyl will follow.

Also there's a strong possibility of re-releases of these albums!

AU - You were briefly involved with the band Necrophagia, what did you take from the experience and will you be going back?

Mirai - It's always good to work with varied musicians. Every musician has something different, so you can always learn something from them.

Well, if asked, I'll help them out, but I don't think I'll be a permanent member again as I'm too busy these days.

AU - Lastly, any plans to tour Canada? We love you here!

Mirai - Definitely we'd love to

tour the US/Canada when the album is out early next year!

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"Ripulation"

CANNIBAL CORPSE
"Evisceration Plague"

THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER
"Vellere"

AUSTRIAN DEATH MACHINE
"Double Brutal"

AUSTRIAN DEATH MACHINE
"Double Brutal"

BEHEMOTH
"Evangelion"

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Continued from page 19

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Punk and hardcore were once the same thing, but now hardcore is just screamo tough guy metal or something. Am I showing my age?

Best Metal Album of the Year: The fuck do I know about metal? Go ask the singer from 310B.

Shittiest Album of the Year: Whatever Nickelback did last, followed by Rancid's new album. Time to hang it up, Tim.

Best Live Show of the Year: Daylos at the Cobalt with Mike Jak. The Cretin was on crutches and played with two broken strings. Now that's rock n' roll.

Best Movie of the Year: Ah fuck, saw lots of good ones but can't think. Am I showing my age?

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Drag Me to Hell.

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Dreadnaught.

Best tattooist you know: The dude currently working on my legs.

Best skater you know: The fuck do I know about skaters? Go ask Tony Hawk.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Beats me. I like to get to bed at around 8:30. Am I showing my age?

Shock of the Year: That we didn't all die of the H1N1. According to the media, we should have.

Douche of the Year: The CEO of Translink, Tom Prendergast, who 'earns' more than 1 000,000,000 a year. Fuck him.

Clusterfuck of the Year: The Olympics. And they haven't even started yet.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? I think it's cool that a free zine with a byline that says "The Scum Also Rises" has lasted so long. Don't stop!

Best Metal Album of the Year: Whatever Nickleback did last, followed by Rancid's new album. Time to hang it up, Tim.

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Douche of the Year: The CEO of Translink, Tom Prendergast, who 'earns' more than 1 000,000,000 a year. Fuck him.

Best New Band in your local scene: Vancouver Killing Spree

Best tattooist you know: Paul Booth

Best skater you know: Hate skaters.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Anything outside of Vancouver

Shock of the Year: Being asked to fill out this survey four years in a row

Douche of the Year: Over sized-glasses-wearing hipsters that plague our city

Clusterfuck of the Year: The entire staff of ABORT Magazine

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Please don't make me answer this...oh wait - am I even in this issue?

Who are you and what are you best known for?

E.S. Day. I'm known for getting drugs for celebrities and having my slanderous reviews censored/edited

Favorite Local Band: NinjaSp

Best Punk Album of the Year: Nothing, still listening to Back from Samoa by Angry Samoans

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Throwdown - Deathless

Best Metal Album of the Year: Slayer - World Painted Blood

Shittiest Album of the Year: Anything on Roadrunner Records.

Best Live Show of the Year: Kreator/Exodus in Vancouver

Best Movie of the Year: Dayglo Abortions - better than ever.

Best Punk Album of the Year: Northern Avenger by D.O.A.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Behold the Failure by Mumakil

Best Metal Album of the Year: The Root of All Evil by Arch Enemy

Shittiest Album of the Year: All Hope is Gone by Slipknot. Love the band, hate the album. They abandoned their roots and went prog.

Best Live Show of the Year: Zappa Plays Zappa at the McPherson Theatre

Best Movie of the Year: The guy from Nickelback getting beamed with a full beer can on YouTube.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: For sheer enduring horror and absolutely disturbing content: anything involving triple anal penetration.

Best New Band in your local scene: Iskra

Best tattooist you know: Bob at Universal Tattoos

Best skater you know: Tiemen Kuipers

Shock of the Year:

That celebrities take anesthetic to go to sleep at night. How fucked up is that?

Douche of the Year: Massengill

Clusterfuck of the Year: The Recession is Over (not from where I sit)

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

I'm proud to be associated with it, but am astonished that it hasn't assed off. It's one of the only publications today that allows real writing and freedom of expression.

Pleading the 5th.

Clusterfuck of the Year:

The Olympics.

Hands down.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

THANK THE LORD (..of Darkness) FOR AU!!!



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Lacey P. Best known for the useless over abundance of horror movie knowledge that clouds my twisted little mind

Favorite Local Band: Civil Savage

Best Punk Album of the Year: Punk Rock Jihad - Alcoholic White Trash

Best Live Show of the Year: Hands down, Obituary with The Berzerker, Warbringer, Krisiun and Goatwhore

Best Movie of the Year: The Fourth Kind

Best Horror Movie of the Year: MARTYRS

Best tattooist you know: Adam Donesley at Injected Ink

Best Event/Party of the Year: DEDFEST 2009

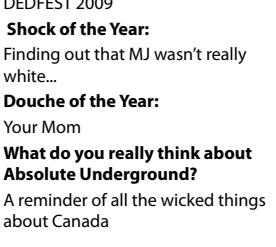
Shock of the Year:

Finding out that MJ wasn't really white...

Douche of the Year: Your Mom

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

A reminder of all the wicked things about Canada



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Liam Lux: The guy who booked your band at Lucky Bar, taught comic books at UVic, and repeatedly and effectively told the local powers-that-be to FUCK OFF.

Favorite Local Band: WZRZ!!!

Best Album of the Year: "Hard Drugs" by Hard Drugs.

Best Live Show of the Year: New Model Army at the Rickshaw.

Best Movie of the Year: TIE: "RIP: A Remix Manifesto" and/or not "Ninja Assassin" (depending if it's as good as it should be).

Best Horror Movie of the Year: TIE: "Inside", "Let the Right One In", and "Pontypool".

Favorite Local Band: Tribune-Rotting core

Shittiest Album of the Year: Maximum RnR. It's pretty hard staying sober at one of their shows.

Best Punk Album of the Year: The Spits #4. Hands down.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: The re-release of Zero Boys - Vicious Circle

Shittiest Album of the Year: Zombieland

BEST OF 2009

T.A.T. Some terrible British band that I got for review. I ended up tossing it out.

Best Live Show of the Year:

Brutal Knights with the Sedatives at Rancho Relaxo in Toronto sometime in August.

Best Movie of the Year:

et Them Know: The Story of Youth Brigade and BYO Records.

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Drag Me to Hell.

Best New Band in your local scene:

Machettes.

Best tattooist you know:

Jenny Boulger. She works at Sal's in China Town, pretty rad stuff.

Best skater you know:

Eric Buehner from Holly Wood Swank. That dude is all about "Skate and Destroy". Or maybe it's "Skate while Destroyed".

Best Event/Party of the Year:

When I was wasted at some small bar in Montreal and King Khan showed up and did a free style battle with Bloodshot Bill.

Shock of the Year:

Chuck Biscuits is dead. Oh, wait. No he's not.

Douche of the Year:

Sarah Palin or that chimp that ripped that ladies face off.

Clusterfuck of the Year:

That lady getting her face ripped off by that chimp was pretty gnarly.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

I liked reading it and eventually started contributing to it. Dreams do come true.

Best New Band in your local scene:

Dead Man's Trio

Best tattooist you know:

Steve Elia

Best Event/Party of the Year:

B.C. Hemp daze

Shock of the Year:

Sons of Anarchy showing two guys on a mushroom trip.

Douche of the Year:

The Hangover. Watch this hung-over.

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Let the Right One In

Best New Band in your local scene:

Easy...CLASS OF 1984! Recognize.

Best tattooist you know:

The Jamedog

Best skaters you know:

Darcy Dennis and James Lindsay.

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Victoria Film Festival

Shock of the Year:

Possible Turbogeno break-up.

Douche of the Year:

The V-Lounge

Clusterfuck of the Year:

The V Lounge

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Perfect bird cage liner.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

Capital City Stalkers.

Best Metal Album of the Year:

I'll just say SLAYER. Safe bet.

Best Live Show of the Year:

The Bronx at Richards in Van

Best Movie of the Year:

The Hangover. Watch this hung-over.

Douche of the Year:

Life Brand douche, I heard it's the best on the market.

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Continued from page 27



Who are you and what are you best known for?

My name is **Jordan** and I play in the Calgary Death/Grind band Kataplexis.

Favorite Local Band:

Akakor. Great people, great musicians and a great message. Check them out @ www.myspace.com/akakormetal

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Strung Out - Agents Of The Underground.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

Converge - Axe To Fall. These guys are the kings of hardcore.

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Burnt By The Sun - Heart Of Darkness. Six years was worth the wait. R.I.P. BBTS.

Runners up: Behemoth - Evangelion,

Rammstein - Liebe Ist Fur Alle Da, The

Red Chord - Fed Through The Teeth

Machina, Napalm Death - Time Waits

For No Slave, Brutal Truth - Evolution

Through Revolution

Shittiest Album of the Year:

Slayer - World Painted Blood. Sounds

rushed and has the worst guitar tone on a Slayer album ever.

Best Live Show of the Year:

Faith No More..

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

H2, Anything with Michael Myers gives

me a boner.

Best New Band in your local scene:

Kataplexis! But Akakor, We Found The Body, Mark Of Cain and Kilyakai all shred mad styles.

Best tattooist you know:

Marshall at Atomic Zombie in

Edmonton.

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Demonika's Symphony Of Horrors 4

and Gore Games.

Shock of the Year:

The Flames making the playoffs. They

Fucking suck!!!

Douche of the Year:

Anybody who goes to shows to pick

fights and cause trouble.

What do you really think about

Absolute Underground?

It kicks ass!!!



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Ryan Dyer - Money, hoes and clothes is all this nigga knows.

Favorite Local Band:

Akakor, Psykotiq Monk

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Devin Townsend Project - Addicted

Shittiest Album of the Year:

Probably the New Moon soundtrack.

Best Live Show of the Year:

Canadian Carnage, Summer Slaughter,

Down/Voivod, Noctis, Bison/Lazarus

Best Movie of the Year:

Bruno

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Martyrs, Hanger, Orphan, Smash Cut,

Vampire Girl Vs Frankenstein Girl, Black

Worst Doll, Grace

Worst Horror Movie:

This Is It

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Dem crazy Demonika shows

Shock of the Year:

An article of mine making it to the

cover of my college's newspaper. A

more typical event was my next one

not being included at all.

Douche of the Year:

The one signed by Hanger director

Ryan Nicholson to be given away as a

prize at his screenings.

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Too many to name

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Too many to name

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Me



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Writer-Director.

Favorite Local Band:

The GLITCH MOB

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Propaghandi: Supporting Caste

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

Converge: Axe To Fall

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Strung Out - Agents Of The

Underground.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

Glitch Mob again- those dudes are on

fire. See them. And if you're too cool

to go rock it to shit because you

think you're so punk rock, then you can

get raped.

Best Movie of the Year:

DON'T LOOK BACK

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

THE CHILDREN

Best New Band in your local scene:

DEATHRACE

Best tattooist you know:

Nathan Kostecko- Coil Gallery,

Chinatown LA

Best skater you know:

Tanya Harding

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:

Inglorious Bastards

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Drag Me To Hell

Best New Band in your local scene:

Parapsyotic

Best tattooist you know:

Olie At The Lucky Squid in Medicine

Hat, AB.

Best skater you know:

Roger Bruinsma - Lethbridge

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:

Demonika

Shock of the Year:

Licking a 9V battery.

Douche of the Year:

Chad Persley

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Probably me at Punk Rock Bowling in

Vegas. Sorry 'bout that!

What do you really think about

Absolute Underground?

Best free mag ever.

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Clusterfuck of the Year:

Me

BEST OF 2009





Calabrese And They Say Punk Rock is Dead...

By Chuck Wurley and J-Unit

Hailing from the dry deserts of Arizona, Calabrese have been bringing their brand of horror rock to the world since 2003. Calabrese are a three piece, consisting of brothers Bobby, Jimmy and Davey. And yes, like the Ramones, they all have the same last name. Unlike the Ramones however, Calabrese is their actual last name. Spooky? I think so. They have toured and played with everyone from Mad Sin, to Michael Graves, to The Living

AU: What bands do you particularly enjoy touring or just doing shows with?

Bobby: Obviously, I can't NOT mention playing with Tiger Army, which was incredible. Hour of the Wolf from Prescott is also cool to play with. They're insane live, and they always give me inspiration and energy. Also, any of those horror rock and roll fests we play are a lot of fun too. It's really rad to play with and watch a ton of like-minded bands!

Jimmy: I think Bobby's double negative means he hates playing shows with Tiger Army? Ha! I've



gave us a great deal on the video. The concept was no brainer, we wanted to combine the two things we love the most: monsters and ourselves! To pull off such a polished video, all we had to do was show up. Brian and his crew took care of the rest.

AU: What are some of your favorite horror films? Do you prefer older classic films, or newer, grittier horror?

Bobby: Definitely older. I've always been a fan of the Italian stuff like Argento, Bava and Fulci. The

always had fun at shows when we've played with Order Of The Fly in California, Creepsville 666 in Arizona or Ends In Tragedy in New Mexico.

AU: The video for "Voices of the Dead" is more impressive than many videos by multi-platinum artists. How did you come up with the concept for it and make it look so good?

Jimmy: It was pure luck. We ended up meeting Brian Pulido (the comic creature-creator of Lady Death and Evil Ernie) at a show we did at Atomic Comics, a really rad comic shop. He wanted to build his reel for his new film company and he

really weird, stylized and creepy films are what it's all about. "Splatter comedies" are awesome, too. "Braindead", "Evil Dead", "Bad Taste"...we love it!

Jimmy: I'm a sucker for the new classics: "Halloween", "A Nightmare On Elm Street", "Texas Chainsaw Massacre". But my true love lies in the horror comedy genre, "Fright Night", "The Evil Dead", "Braindead" or "Shaun of the Dead".

AU: You've got a comic book in the works; what can you tell us about that?

Jimmy: We teamed up with Modern Mythology Press to bring the adventures of Calabrese

in 2010. It's a one shot story, which, depending on the success of the comic, we'll keep releasing. And with any hope we will ruin comics for everyone!

Bobby: Well, all I can say is that it's going to be insane. We'll pretty much bankrupt DC and Marvel with our new brand of comic book terror!

AU: Seeing as you're all brothers, do you come from a very musical background?

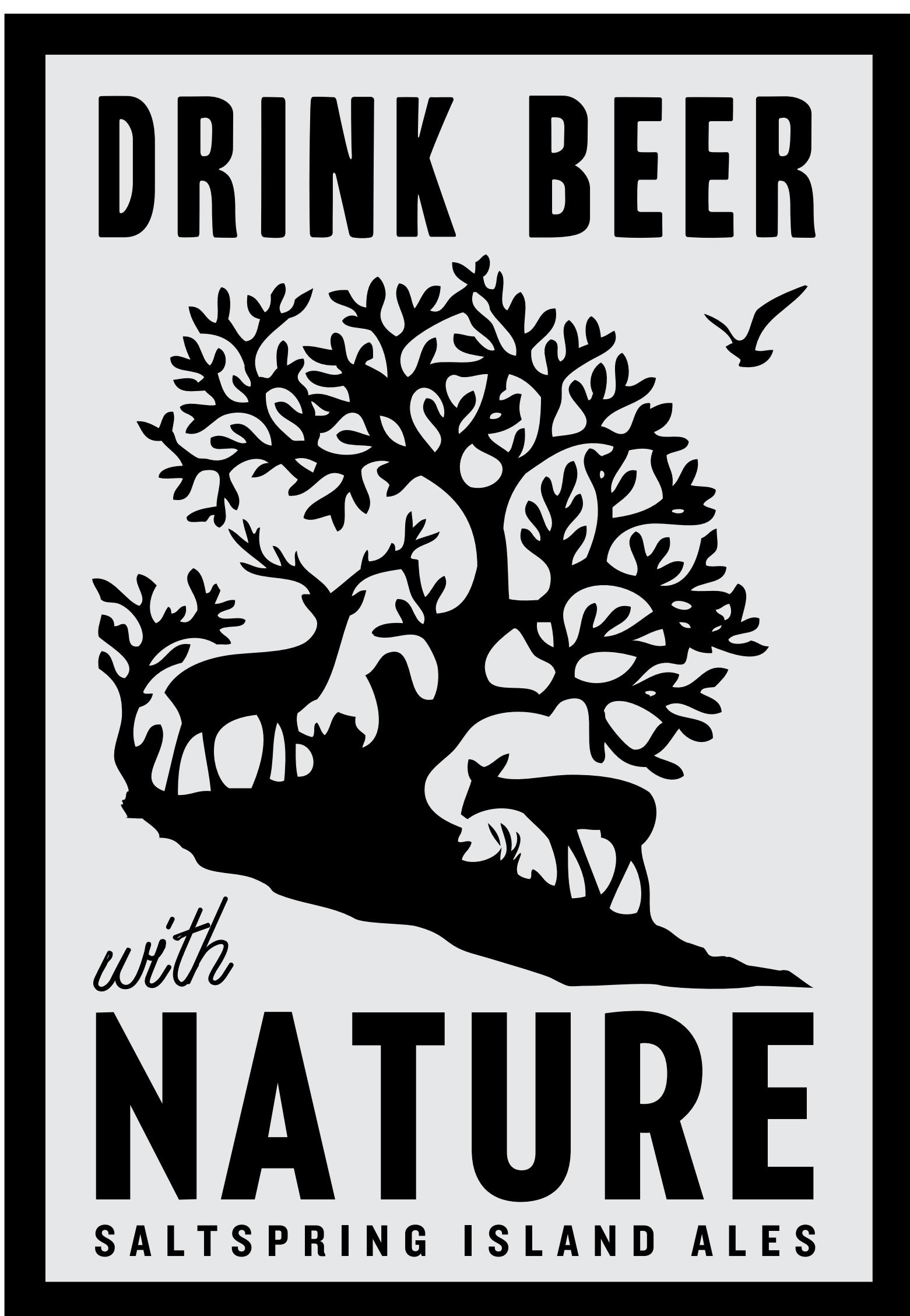
Bobby: We get this question a lot, and it's pretty funny, because no one else in our family is musical! Ha! I'm sure everyone can sing a note or two, and all of our siblings are into music, but as far as I can tell: no one else plays music! I'm just going to assume we were adopted by a group of traveling gypsies.

Jimmy: Traveling vampire gypsies, to be precise.

AU: Any final words you'd like to leave us all with?

Bobby: Yeah, make sure to check us out on YouTube, Twitter, Myspace and Facebook! Also, our new record, "They Call Us Death", will be available early February 2010. But if you act now, you can snag yourself a pretty killer pre-order deal at www.CalabreseRock.com! Do it... and feel the madness!

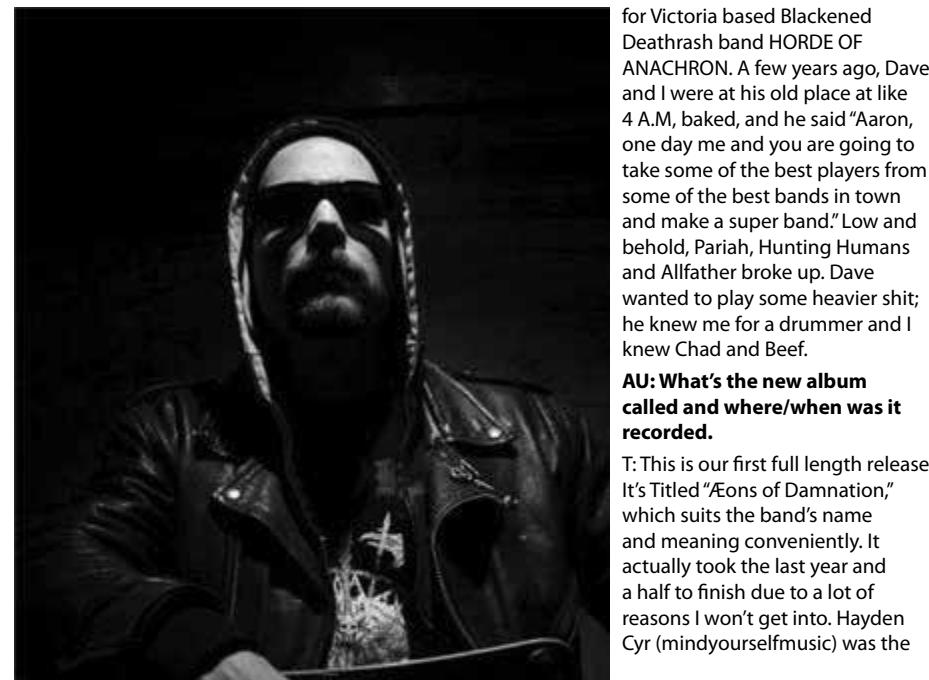
Jimmy: Also, we'll be making our film debut (as ourselves) in the film, "The Graves", during the After Dark Horror Fest 4.



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for Victoria based Blackened Deathrash band HORDE OF ANACHRON. A few years ago, Dave and I were at his old place at like 4 A.M., baked, and he said "Aaron, one day me and you are going to take some of the best players from some of the best bands in town and make a super band." Low and behold, Pariah, Hunting Humans and Allfather broke up. Dave wanted to play some heavier shit; he knew me for a drummer and I knew Chad and Beef.

AU: What's the new album called and where/when was it recorded?

T: This is our first full length release. It's Titled "Æons of Damnation," which suits the band's name and meaning conveniently. It actually took the last year and a half to finish due to a lot of reasons I won't get into. Hayden Cyr (mindyourselfmusic) was the

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HORDE OF ANACHRON

By Willy Jak

Absolute Underground: Who are you? What's the band called? Where from? Brief history.

Tophet: I am Tophet, (as far as the band is concerned anyway) Skin Slaughtering Slavery

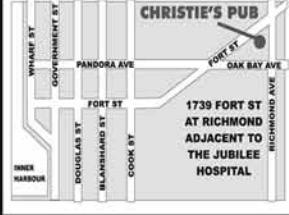
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engineer on this battle craft. He actually ended up doing some minor producing as well; the guy is very fucking good at what he does and has a lot of good ideas. He also recorded Allfather's "Weapon Of Ascension." It was mastered by Imperial Mastering.

AU: Dave is an incredible guitar player. I expected to hear more wankery but the new album has taken in a more melodic approach. I am hearing some Carcass-Napalm - kind of an old school grind type thing. Tell us a bit about the new musical direction the band has taken.

T: When I first met Dave it took me about two years to not laugh at him when he'd play, he's a guitar cyborg sent here to murder you sonically; wanking does not compute. The melodic stuff you're hearing is coming from one of the best guitar composers on the island....BEEF! I swear the guy was a maestro in a past life. The Carcass/grind feel comes from the B tuning and we all love Carcass. Probably cause I'm not the fastest drummer too. AAAHHH...the not so much new but long ignored musical direction: Faster, Evil, Better, less all over the place. We're already working on a five or six song E.P. titled "Death And Diabolism".

AU: The cover is pretty sick. Who did the artwork?

T: Dan Seagrave did this artwork. For those of you who don't know him, you should. He has a shit load of awesome bands he's done art for including Morbid Angel, Suffocation, Immortal, Dismember, Decrepit Birth, etc...

AU: I understand there has been a lineup change. What's the deal and what's the reason behind that and who are the current members?

T: Most bands go through lineup changes and sadly we had to remove a rusty cog. Anyone who wants to get "real reasons" can talk to Beef. He's a bro and I'm not saying anything bad about him on the record. It's now Necrodonis, Wulfkorpse, 'ul and me. Tophet.

AU: How have the fans and press been receiving the new record?

T: It's been a great response so far from both. I mean, it's no "Thriller" but everyone seems to be enjoying it a lot. We got a great review on METALRULES.COM and these guys are huge and review huge bands. "Æons Of Damnation" got a 3.5 / 5 when the new Megadeth got a 4 / 5 or something.

Continued from page 28

Katatonia's 'Night is the New Day'

Best Live show of the Year:

Dwarves in Vegas for Punkrock Bowling. Locally would definitely be Team Scarab's, Noctis III Metal Fest.

Best New Band in your local scene:

Parapsychoth

Best tattooist you know:

James Tex hands down

Best Event/Party of the Year:

My Symphony of Horrors 4

Shock of the Year:

How fast it went by

Douche of the Year:

Every single person who jumped on the Swine flu band wagon. It's called flu season, it happens every year... wash your hands, take your vitamins, eat right, and get a decent amount of sleep you fucking fool.

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Goregames II at the Underground

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

It's my lover with no money in his pockets but he has a big dick so I keep him around.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Ryan Nicholson, writer/director/ deviant. Best known for leaving a very bad taste in people's mouths.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:

It's a Mexican stand-off between Grass City, Bison, and SpreadEagle.

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Zao - Awake?

Who are you and what are you best known for?

Russ Foxx - ritual body suspension,

advanced modification, scarification & body piercing artist

Favorite Local Band:

NinjaSpy

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Propagandhi - Supporting Caste

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

Zao - Awake?

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What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Great magazine for keeping up with Canada's music scene!

BEST OF 2009



Alexisonfire - Old Crows/Young Cardinals
Best Hardcore Album of the Year:
Dying Fetus - Descend into Depravity
Best Metal Album of the Year:
GoatWhore - Carving Out The Eyes Of God
Shittiest Album of the Year:
Justin Bieber - My World
Best Live Show of the Year:
Skinny Puppy at the Rickshaw

Best Movie of the Year:
District 9

Best Horror Movie of the Year:
Halloween 2

Best New Band taking over your local scene:

Fake Shark Real Zombie

Best tattooist you know:

Wes Tattoos

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:

Michelle Grady

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Downtown Zombie Walk

Shock of the Year:

Michael Jackson's death

Douche of the Year:

Manny Landry @ The FALL Tattooing.

Best skater you know:

Dustin - Vancouver longboarder

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:

Luke Detheridge

Best Event/Party of the Year:

BMXNet

Shock of the Year:

The death of Andrew Niland

Douche of the Year:

Gordon Campbell

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Preparation for the biggest clusterfuck of 2010: The Olympics

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

I think it's great. It's free, what more could you ask for.

Who are you and what are you best known for?

Ryan Nicholson, writer/director/ deviant. Best known for leaving a very bad taste in people's mouths.

Favorite Local Band:

NinjaSpy

Best Punk Album of the Year:

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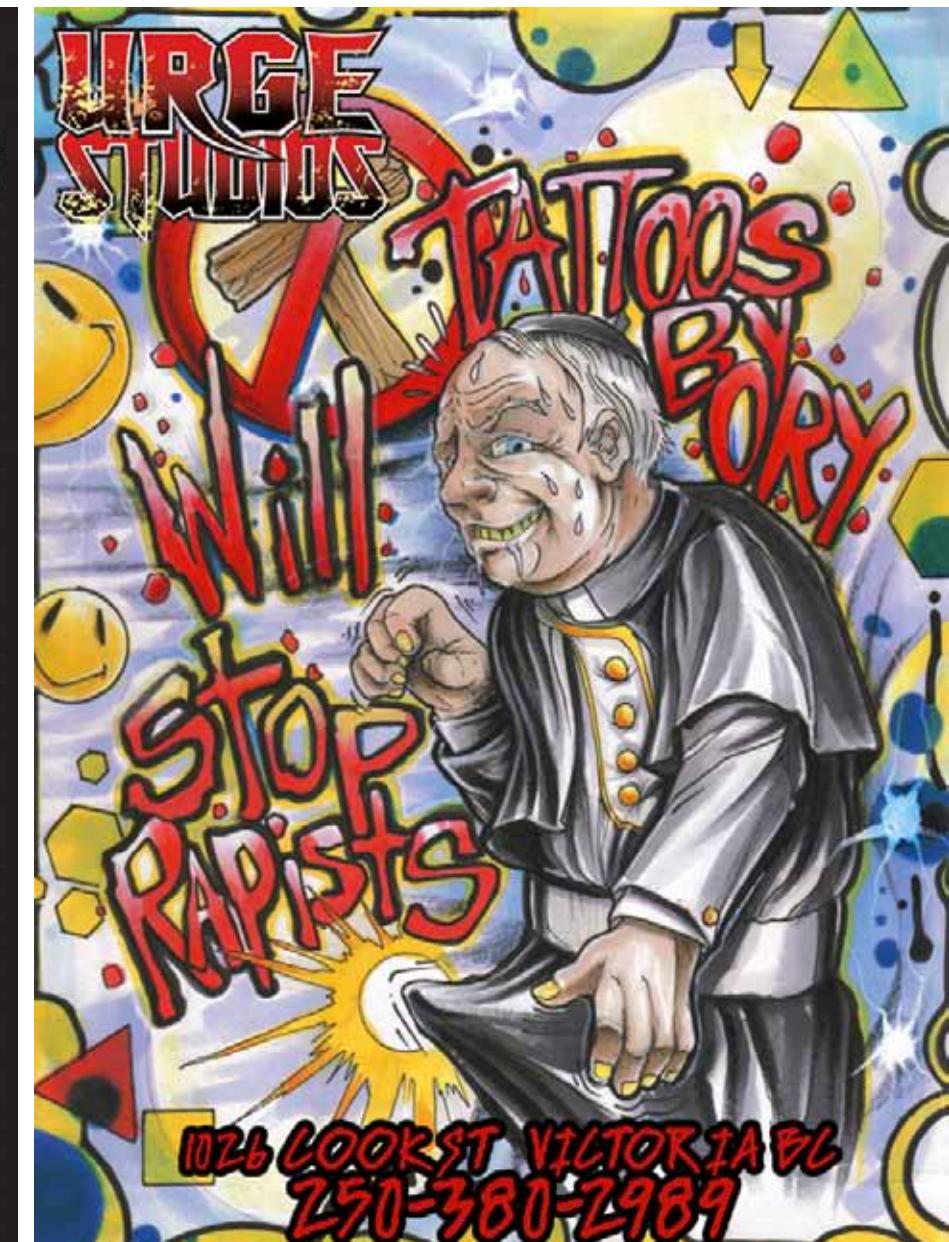
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Conspiracy Corner

The Needle & The Damage Done

By James Locke

For several months we have been subjected to an onslaught of propaganda in the privately owned mainstream media, regarding "the swine flu" pandemic, about to be cast upon the earth. In actuality, H1N1 is not swine flu, as the World Health Organization would have us believe. This particular flu strain is a synthetic virus; an amalgam of five different types of flu... engineered in a laboratory.

In the same way a major anti virus company engineered the latest Trojan, that is probably worming its way through your computer right now, big pharma has machinated to create a demand – one they are only too happy to supply.

The swine flu is no more dangerous than regular seasonal flu, but drug companies need sick, frightened people to take their expensive shots, because healthy and informed people don't turn a profit. Health Canada has already ordered 50 million doses of "H1N1 Vaccine" from the international drug conglomerate GlaxoSmithKline. This is the Pharmaceutical Industrial Complex in full swing.

The mainstream media and big pharma, are different pockets on the same pair of pants; symbiotes in this fear based mind control campaign to immunize the masses. They are at some level, huddled together under a single multinational umbrella corporation, while the rest of us get soaked.

Most doctors don't know much about vaccines, simply because they do not read the literature, or

even the back of the box the shots are packaged in, yet you can pay a visit to your M.D., and be totally assured of its safety as you roll up your sleeve. Aluminum, Melamine and Mercury, (under proprietary names such as Thimerosal and Squalene) are clearly listed as ingredients. These toxins and adjuvants, attack synergistically and remain in the brain and major organs for a lifetime.

Nearly all viruses enter your body through mucous membranes in the nose, eyes, mouth, pulmonary system or digestive tract. These membranes have their own point of entry defense, called the IgA immune system. When this natural immunity is bypassed with an injection, an insidious chemical assault begins, that can cause autism, asthma, diabetes, joint disorders, arthritis, alzheimer's disease, cancer and even death.

In the 1970's, during a swine flu outbreak, the U.S. Department of Health had to stop administering the shots because the vaccine was killing more people than the flu itself. Incidentally, did you know, that there is an acceptable number of deaths associated with any given vaccine before it is recalled?

Keep in mind, a virus mutates from person to person, rendering a flu shot entirely ineffective. So how is it even possible to create a worthwhile vaccine to begin with? The best defense, is to take lots of vitamin D, wash your hands regularly, do not rub your eyes or nose, and avoid being among large groups of people in contained areas during an outbreak.

Are we witnessing an act of false flag terrorism, to be used as a pretext to declare martial law?

Hold onto your tinfoil hat and stay tuned...

(DarkTruthDigest.com)

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Absolute LIVE Reviews

KISS - Alive 35 Tour
November 14th, GM Place, Vancouver, B.C.
by Ira "Hotter Than Hell" Hunter

The KISS ARMY had gathered and the face-painted freaks were out in full force. I won't even mention the horrible opener but their name rhymes with Suckcherry. It's officially a new digital age when the douche bag singer says "Everybody hold up your cellphones", instead of hold up your lighters. On to the good stuff. This was the Kiss: Alive 35 Tour. Fuck, this was the first time I'd seen them live and they've been doing it longer than I've been breathing air. Had to pay the big bucks to get seats but was happy to receive a last minute photo pass for the big show. I was front and center as KISS literally exploded onto the stage with classics "Deuce", and "Strutter". The gleam of their metallic costumes was blinding; they looked cool as Hell, especially in full make-up. The older tunes rocked and even some of the new shit was tolerably catchy like "Say Yeah". Bazooka explosion guitar solos from Tommy Thayer and merry-go-round spinning drum solos from Eric Singer didn't have me caring if Ace Frehley and Peter Criss were there or not. I was finally witnessing KISS and I was loving it!! Between yoga inspired guitar licks, Paul Stanley spit a guitar pick off his tongue; it didn't quite make it out to the crowd so I snagged it. The pick was covered in red lipstick and Paul Stanley's slick saliva - "Oh my God, I hope I don't get A.I.D.S.!!!" was my first



Absolute LIVE Review

GOREGAMES 3

October 31 - The Underground, Calgary AB

For the third year running MissDeMeano and Demonika have reached deep down into their sick minds to bring us the bloodiest and most debauched Halloween celebration possible. The Gore Games once more lived up to their name and reputation, hosted as in previous years, at the Underground. The bar was transformed with a scattering of limbs, bones, torture implements, and other things your mother wouldn't likely approve of. And



way, after making their presence known, our apocalyptic hosts drew a few willing deviants out of the audience to get their hands bloody with a series of brain transplants that were anything but medically sound. As the night crept on Death and his assistants would reappear to incite further wayward drunks to transgress against all that is right and good in exchange for a chance to win fantastic prizes. Easily the most talked about and likely most

on Samhain? Did I mention that this celebration of gore and girls had The Dead Cold providing a live soundtrack? A thin sheet of plastic was all that separated this Edmontonian quintet from the splatterfest, and as the blood cannon ran down so did the barrier the kept them from the audience.

The Dead Cold was only one of three bands to amaze and astound that night. Opening act ParaPsychotic played a unique brand of thrash, their sound owing no small part to their upright bassist. Fucker played that thing so hard the headstock snapped right off. The evenings headliners need little introduction. If you haven't heard of Dead Jesus by now, then you're probably reading the wrong magazine. Admittedly, my memories of Dead Jesus' set are somewhat fuzzy due to excessive celebration. I can't

imagine spending Halloween any other way.

By The Dirty D

that's saying nothing of the patron's costumes that ranged from the absurd, the silly, the deadly sexy, and simply deadly.

To kick the festivities off, Death himself berated the audience and introduced his fellow horsemen. Or is that horsewomen? Either

watched of the depraved events

was the infamous bloody t-shirt contest. A sampling from the fairer sex in Calgary's alternative world attired in the most appropriate garments (wife-beaters) and covered head to toe in blood.

What else would you want to see

is this great Necrophagia sound, but I just can't take their vocalist seriously. He has this short haircut, though wears typical metal guard. He never talks normally, always using his frothy tarman zombie voice even when saying "Thank you" to the crowd before introducing the next song. I can't help but imagine him at home ordering Chinese Food like this.

In the Den, the crowd was very into this band called

HRONM who sang in very, very high pitched voices

about going "Through the Universe" and other nerdy conquests. I don't want to say much else bad about them. They were very talented musically, as many power metal bands are - but the style just isn't my cup of tea.

Exit Strategy was typical in their technical brutality

- with Therese dedicating one song to molesting

preachers everywhere after asking the crowd if they

read the newspaper on this recent religious controversy.

Crickets chirped, before the

frontwoman purged into a

vocal display on the verge of

possession.

A Bloodshed Nightmare was

like the Native American

version of Katplexis. Brutal

grindcore from these young

gents. People seemed to be

taking a breather for them,

unfortunately, as the dance

floor was left mostly empty

for their barrage of noise.

Aura Noir played under a

thick mast of smoke which

perfectly accentuated their

old school Venom like

sound. With a cute squeak,

the vocalist announced

his gratification with

the Canadian audience,

remarking that it was his first

time here. It will hopefully

not be their last.

Akakor follows in the long

line of examples that you

cannot judge a band's

content on their grotesque

grunts alone. Craig Reaburn's

new project takes on dark societal underpinnings and

weaves them into their ultra technical compositions. Live, it incinerates faces rather than just melting them.

Destroyer 666 brought a surge of blackened death to

the fist pumping masses. Some open handed sieg heils also came with them, as a small group of skinheads

Being awesome seems to come naturally to them. An

especially fun set.

As New York death metal legends Suffocation took to the

stage, the skinheads had noticeably vanished, probably

due to the band being 40% black. The sound was

noticeably fucked after around 20 minutes of their set.

Overall, this Noctis was a couple of shrapnel greater than

the last, and as such the next will be greater than this.

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due to the band being 40% black. The sound was

noticeably fucked after around 20 minutes of their set.

Overall, this Noctis was a couple of shrapnel greater than

the last, and as such the next will be greater than this.

Being awesome seems to come naturally to them. An

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Interview with Director

PAUL SOLET

By Ryan D

Paul Solet's Grace was last year's sleeper hit which took film festivals by storm. The story of a woman who wasn't ready to give up her deceased newborn and the bloody aftermath that followed was enough to make some audience members faint in their seats. Grace proved in a big way that psychological and body horror are still as relevant as ever, and possibly are more important than gratuitous shocks and gore buffets.

Absolute Underground - Grace was just released on DVD, making your first film available for generations to come as long as films exist, how does it feel?

Paul Solet - It feels pretty amazing! Particularly knowing that the film will live on Blu-Ray as well. That technology is just fantastic. The picture, the sound, everything is gorgeous. I can't tell you how thrilled our whole team was to hear we'd be out on Blu-Ray as well. The producer, Adam Green, and I both grew up studying DVD and laserdisc extras every chance we got, so we went to really great lengths to make this an incredible DVD.

Adam Barnick, who did five of the featurettes, has been working on GRACE almost as long as I have, and he put a slew of gorgeous, intelligent, entertaining docs together that will get any aspiring filmmaker jazzed as hell, and Jake Hamilton, a partner of mine for years on shorts, produced a documentary on our Sundance experience that is so good it literally makes people cry.

AU - With a few individuals fainting in theaters, Grace's reputation preceded it. Does this type of hype intimidate you in coming up with a follow up film?

PS - I don't think so, no. It's a great validation that the film gets under people's skin enough to make them lose consciousness, and so far only one of the four people has actually hurt themselves, which is a relief. As I write this, I'm coming home from Sitges, where our first woman fainted. Thus far, it had been

only men, which I thought was telling. People aren't fainting from gore, they're fainting from subject matter, and situational tension. It's just not a bloody film. Not a gut punch. It's much more of a soul punch. I never aimed to make anyone pass out, I just aimed to create a world that audiences couldn't escape from as I find myself too frequently able to escape from the movies I watch. I tried to create a world authentic enough emotionally, that you really had to be there with the characters the entire ride, and that seems to have worked. I'll aspire to nothing less the next



time around.

AU - You carried the dead baby prop around for a while at a lot of screenings; did you get any negative reactions to this?

PS - I'm sure. But that's part of the fun. Anyone who takes themselves that seriously, I'm not really worried about. I'm not interested in making safe genre movies. Safe genre movies are bad genre movies. And when you're marketing a risky genre film, I don't think it's a bad thing to get a little bit risky and have some fun with it. When you do shorts, it's not like you have any marketing money to work with, or a publicist or anything. It's just you and the dead baby prop and as much fake blood as you can whip up. But bluster and stunts aren't worth shit if you haven't done the footwork creatively with the film itself. That's what's really important.

AU - Would you be interested in doing a remake if the offer presented itself?

PS - I think it's every bit as silly to flatly condemn remakes as it is to flatly embrace them. The bottom line is story, and

Absolute Album Reviews

ARMED FOR APOCALYPSE - Defeat Metal Blade Records

Armed for Apocalypse, hailing from Chico, CA, and formed from ex-members of Will Haven and Red With Envy, manage to sound like they've just crawled out from some primordial-ooze swamp way back in the woods of Louisiana. Defeat has absolutely crushing riffs and hammering drums, shonuff. The kick-off track, "We Fell From the Bottom" is quite the pounding kick in the dick, and the record never really lets up from there. Echoes of Eyehategod reverberate throughout "A Failure" and "Hero Complex" completely stinks of Crowbar's latter-day COC's collective nut sweat - thanks fellas, that's a great visual. If you don't like your metal crushing-ly heavy, or you're hoping for a bit of respite with some mellow breakdowns, then I urge you to get the fuck out the way, because this record is the aural equivalent of a freight train bearing down on a little baby deer who's gotten his tender little hoof caught in the railroad track.

-Kyle Harcott

BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME - The Great Misdirect

Victory Records

Six tracks clocking in at just under 60 minutes...EPIC is a fitting word. These are some of the most talented musicians in any genre as far as I'm concerned. Seamlessly going from guttural growls and screams to intricate melodies, the singer commands attention. Listening to them is like being at the circus, everything is just larger than life and theatrical. The arrangements at times are even comical, in that you seriously cannot believe what you are hearing, like you are in a house of mirrors and everything is skewed and doesn't abide by the laws of nature. Pretty impressive, it's no "Colors", but honestly - if a band always had to make a better album than the last, not to mention that the last was one of the most incredible works released in the past couple of decades, well then we'd all be a bunch of hipster douchebags.

-Pauly HC

CONVERGE - Axe to Fall

Epitaph/Anti

The opening track "Dark Horse" instantly sets the tone for where Converge have taken their sound. A blitzkrieg of sound waves assault the listener and seriously, a breakdown in a converge song?!!!! In-fucking-TENSE. I imagine this as the score to a horror movie where the villain is chasing you throughout a decrepit house, smashing through walls, obliterating doors and hunting you across a rooftop in the rain. Track five gives you a breather, but it is merely a false sense of security as the chase resumes, the menace draws nearer and soon you will succumb to his will. The final track feels like he has his hands wrapped around your neck and you're slowly losing

-Jen Warnock

THE GATES OF SLUMBER - Hymns of Blood and Thunder

Metal Blade Records

You often hear the battle cry of "Fuck the Trends!" in the metal scene, but nobody can attest to sticking to their guns harder than Indianapolis' The Gates of Slumber, who have been bashing out their Wino/Inmobi-infused thulsa-doom since 1998. You remember 1998, don'tcha? Yeah, you were probably wearing track-suits and pricing out the cost of getting dreadlocks

-Pauly HC

THE PHANTOM CREEPS

Independent

This is a pretty badass full length debut with a psychobilly-meets-Social D sound. Tyler Brownfield's upright bass gets in a mean workout over these 11 tracks. They've clearly got the genre down, with songs about drinking, misery, and I'm assuming hotrods/those Betty Page pinup types who tore out your heart/hell/etc. For an independent release the sound is surprisingly well mixed or something. Really, any album with a cover featuring "a naked woman with batwings on her knees and holding a snake above her head" can't be bad.

www.phantomcreeps.com

-Jeff Valentine

PROFITS OF CRIME

Independent

Spraying from a recently bombed oil pipeline, it's Profits of Crime. Hailing from Calgary, POC launch their sonic

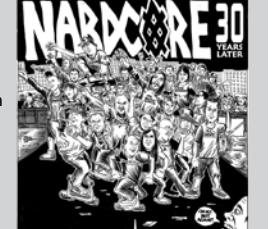
backlash at the mega corporations that profit from desecrating public and natural land with no regard for the environment. Chainsaw guitar, thundering bass and drums and loud, hoarse vocals combine for a fast sonic barrage that blazes from start to finish. With former members of Dogfaced Models, Dry Fisted, Field Day and Epi-Demic, (the latter of which is still ripping it up), these guys have been around and have honed the band's sound to reflect their distaste for the greed that this province's existence is based upon. Radiation Records and Unrest Records release their self titled 7" song CD this December 4th at The Distillery in Calgary and there probably won't be any oil company execs on the guest list. Check out MySpace.com/ProfitsOfCrime for three tunes and band info.

-Markus Jak

NARDCORE COMPILATION - 30 YEARS LATER

Burning Tree Records

Nardcore was a term applied to a unique type of punk bands originating from Oxnard, CA, in the early 80's. Though only an hour north of L.A., Oxnard bands were a little grittier and a little cruder than their L.A. counterparts. Such great bands as Dr. Know, Ill Repute, Aggression and RKL were spawned by this movement; the first two of which are still kicking and have new songs on this 20 band comp. Newer Oxnard bands are also featured and continue that recognizably fast and crunchy Nardcore tradition. The 12" vinyl features 20 songs by 20 bands and also contains a CD with an extra song by each band. That's 40 songs by 20 bands. Lots to listen to on myspace.com/vanardcore30years later for samples of all the tracks.



Stallions' is about the struggles of tour, yet not wanting to trade the experience for any sum of money. The Riot Before slows it down for "Words Written Over Coffee", which has a great folk feel and includes a somber harmonica. This album has a great range of styles and features ups and downs that a rollercoaster would have trouble matching.

-denis maile

TEENAGE BOTTLEROCKET - They Came From the Shadows

Fat Wreck Chords

Teenage Bottlerocket does not suffer from pretensions of trying to be original. They know what they are good at and they do it damn well. You need not even listen to their music to know this. They have had the same album cover for all four of their full length albums - they know that their skull and crossbones logo is rad. In a world full of people that miss the Ramones, the Teenage Bottlerocket boys are just trying to fill a gap. We also get social commentary and pop culture appreciation, "Skate or Die" and "Bigger Than Kiss" are both great slabs of fun, while "Forbidden Planet" serves to remind us of what a fragile world we all live in. Other songs like "Fatso Goes Nutzoid" and "The Jerk" seem to be designed to help us deal with the many insecurities we all face. See what I mean? Just like the Ramones, they talk about the world, and try to help us face issues of love and insecurity, all the while holding it together with guitar riffs that Ben Weasel is probably trying to think of a way to suit them over (even though I am sure Jughead wrote and played them all).

-Chuck Wurley

SONIC BOOM SIX - City of Thieves

Rebel Alliance

Truly a punk band that is about unity, Sonic Boom Six brings together musical styles as they try to bring together people. With clever, positive and intelligent lyrics, they mesh together musical styles from punk to hip-hop to ska to jungle beat and beyond. With the release of their fourth album, City of Thieves, this Manchester UK five piece decided to try a concept album. All the songs on here follow a theme, a present day city in decay, a comment upon their city I am sure, and also the world. The band kicks into high gear on this album, slowing down only a couple of times, once in the middle and again at the end. The songs range in subject matter from bullying, to loss of civil liberties, to greed, and to the transformation of people into monsters by way of alcohol. The band has dual vocalists, one female with a very beautiful voice, and the other male with a very thick British rude boy feel, perfect for the ska bits, though both of them sing and rap throughout. This band is not afraid to experiment with genre and sounds. They do not pigeon hole

Vancouver Killing Spree is in its early stages. Only few have been killed so far, but hopefully they will be killing for years to come. The EP features five rock gems with "Thatchie Magoon" and "Poor Impulse Control" being the standout tracks. Guitarist/vocalist Brad Anderson's vocals slightly resemble a young Chi Pig, while on guitar he shreds cool riffs half the time and keeps steady rocking the other half. On bass, the lines slapped out get groovy, and the drums are as solid as they need to be; not going over and beyond what needs to make the music rock hard. It's punk rock with a groove. Who will their next victim be? To find out you'll just have to stay tuned to the Vancouver Killing Spree.



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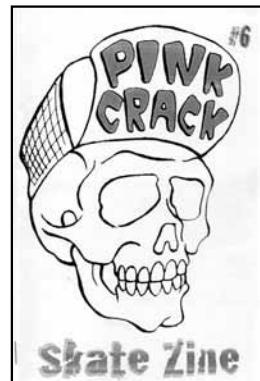
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SKATE ZINES 102

SHARK BAIT #37
Reining from Oklahoma it looks like this 20 page zine goes from street to bowl to ramp. Throw down a few interviews with a band called the Needle Points and some skater chat. Good photos and good feel on this zine. To top it off this zine has a run of 37 issues, not bad for a one man operation; the dude who puts this one out is dedicated.

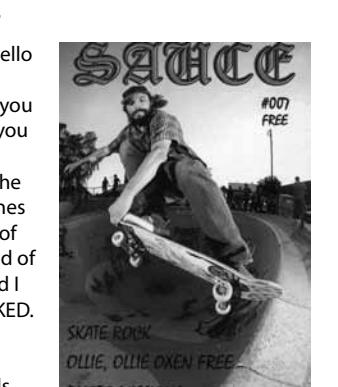


PINK CRACK #6
Well the name says it all eh. This little zine is from North Carolina, home of some 16+ skate parks. 32 pages of gnarly coverage of what's being rode in this state. Bowl riding is alive and well and this zine proves it. It still baffles me why the leading skateboard magazines don't take lessons from zines like Pink Crack and get some real skateboarding photos in their pages. Pink Crack covers gatherings of skaters that



spend time partying and riding in the sick parks of their environment. Page 6 shows a missed coping shot that we skateboarders all know and fear! Great carves, great airs and true skater brotherhood fill the pages of this zine. To top it off some real South Carolina Betties holding a rifle grace the last page of the zine. Real girls you just ain't gonna see in Playboy! This is a goode and with a name like Pink Crack don't be fooled, this zine is all skateboard.

SAUCE #007
Portland... hello anybody... Portland are you there? Then you get smacked with one of the best skate zines to come out of the fatherland of concrete. And I mean SMACKED. The man's name is Pod and he travels with a band of



skate brothers, photographs and documents skateboard reality then serves it up in SAUCE. Color photos and a centerfold that is frame worthy to display in your mom's kitchen. There are so many places to skate on this planet but these illusive full pipes are few and far in-between and Sauce covers them. They are drainage pipes so usually they are full of water, well the Sauce crews have the location and time of year just right for some awesome skating and the photos prove it. Real skateboarders that destroy the concrete that's what Sauce is about. Although photos are what makes Sauce so tasty it does come with a dash of scene report and skate rock coverage of equal gnar factor. Hunt this zine down and get stoked!

VACILANDER #1
A DVD/Zine that so reminds me of the 80's skaterock era but maybe a little more of a garage punk flavor. Music and more music...

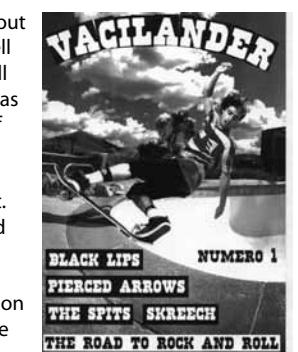
so much music I almost got lost. In a world saturated with screaming grunting and growling music I

totally forgot about Skate Rock... well it is alive and well and Vacilander has rounded a ton of it up to present to you in this awesome format. It's like the mixed tape that Dustin Jak slips you in a moment of passion only you're a little less likely to get internal bleeding.

Some fair music showcased here with a head count of near twenty bands. As I watched this DVD I realized I am old and a lot of the bands are young punks who might not have been alive when I first started skateboarding. One band spotlighted on this DVD is the Pierced Arrows with members clocking in at over 60 years old, so that makes me feel young again. Some of the more notable bands: The Spits in Ronald Regan masks with a killer sound, Los Explosivos have a Mexican surf punk sound, The Okmoniks with Uma Thurman on vocals, and the Rippers that just plain RIP. There's a lot more and if you're a fan of melodic style punk, this DVD/fanzine is for you. Although this package is very music heavy, it does have a small smattering of skateboarding. Punk is alive and Vacilander has the footage.

Hunt these zines down on the internet and give em your support.

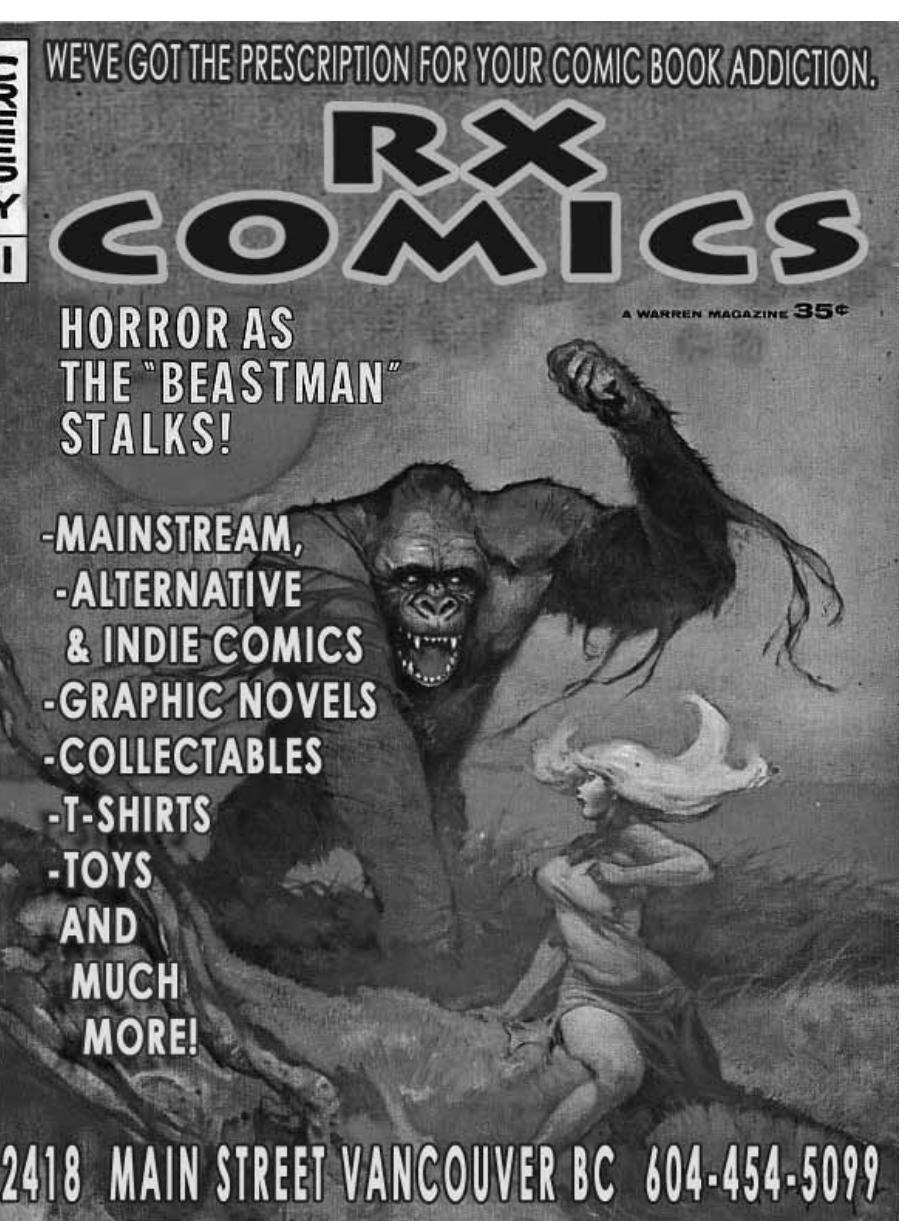
Fully Crazed -Ricky JaK



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Absolute Book Review

Kaspolt By Dennis E. Bolen, Anvil Press, 258 pages, \$20

The word kaspolt, invented by Bolen, refers to the sound of a beer can opening. The stench of stale beer, tobacco, reefer, pig shit and decaying corpses permeates a narrative that is all dialogue and sound effects. It is a hair-of-the-dog fever dream, not unlike James Ellroy's White Jazz or Irvine Welsh's Trainspotting.

depravity? Bolen speculates that there existed a white-trash crime syndicate that ran a booze can habituated by ignorant crackheads and rednecks with no respect for human life, pity or compassion. Men of simple evil, brought together around a clubhouse of sorts where booze, drugs and skid-row hookers were available around the clock. The prostitutes were used until dead. An efficient body-disposal system was in place. All so a clientele of freaks and sadists could obtain transient base pleasures.

bringing his presentation to Swann's Brewpub in Victoria. Not for the faint of heart.

Dennis E. Bolen grew up on Vancouver Island, studied creative writing at UVic and UBC and taught creative writing at the latter. He was a federal parole officer in the Vancouver area for 23 years. He has also published an historical novel about the Holocaust, Stand in Hell, and a book of short fiction, Gas Tank & Other Stories. Les Wiseman

Interview with Author Dennis E. Bolen

By Les Wiseman

Is it a book of literary brilliance? Quite possibly. However, it is also terrifying, repellent and hard going for even the moderately sensitive reader. "Kaspolt" by Dennis E. Bolen is all the evil and badness that death metal and black metal could hope to achieve, but put on paper and bound between two covers.

Absolute Underground: What makes this a literary novel as opposed to a crime novel?

Dennis E. Bolen - Though most of my fiction resides in a criminal milieu (one could argue that my Holocaust novel "Stand in Hell" is also of that ilk, as it exists so substantially amid the atrocities of what was arguably the crime of the millennium) my conceits are exclusively tied to investigation of character - with plot and intrigue relegated to secondary and tertiary ranks. I cringe when lumped in with crime writers. As would actual crime writers if/when lumped in with me. Where the conventions of the crime novel are generally that of a puzzle, wherein elements of knowledge are withheld via structural trickery until the proper moment of reveal, my fiction tends to confess all in an honest chronological procession, which does not attempt to confuse or otherwise obfuscate the real-time truth for the purpose of suspense

and/or other entertainment ends. Thus I rely on character to supply any kind of mystery to my stories, as in:

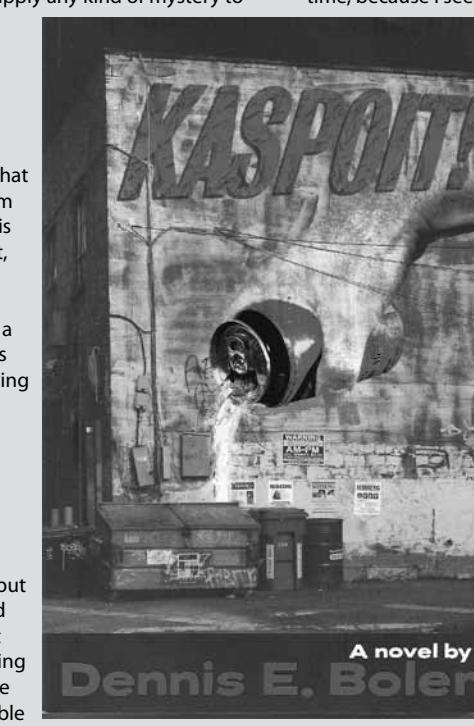
Why would a guy do that? or: How is this particular netherworld in existence? You might comment that with "Kaspolt" I am deviating from this modus somewhat, and you could make a case. But still, this is mainly a story of characters interacting - creating action- and plot, though there is more in this book than any of my others, remains secondary. Most crime aficionados who eschew any but the most standard of the puzzle-plot mass-market writing so widely available today would be able to tell my literary disposition from across a bookstore. I never get crime readers telling me about my books

because they never read them. At the same time, because I seem to be a genre-buster, none of my publishers

down the years have understood how to market me. Their habitual reversion to the crime elements in cover material and design have likely fended off the potential literary readership I might have had.

AU: What did you set out to achieve with this book and did you do it?

D.E.B.: I was perplexed at how insufficiently informed we are regarding recent terrible events involving the RCMP. Beginning with the Mayerthorpe tragedy, on through the Missing Women saga, most recently the Dziekanski inquiry, I've been wondering why the force - which I have revered since



A novel by
Dennis E. Bolen

I was a kid whose best friend was the son of the local detachment OIC, on through my own

law-enforcement career - has been stumbling so badly. So, I had issues with how the crimes were investigated, prosecuted, but especially reported upon. Mostly, I was offended by media acquiescence to police versions of given crimes and their resulting comparative ignorance in informing the public at large. This created a virtual pre-trial conviction in the case of the [pig farm] affair. So I created an alternate-dimension RCMP - the blackest, most corrupt version of it I could imagine - then set my crazy characters amid an approximation of these events to see how things shook out.

AU: What was the germ of the idea that this could all be a massive conspiracy with one fellow as the patsy?

D.E.B.: As noted above, the media "conviction" of a guy whose image was always presented as that of a disheveled rummy, whose TV footage was always as one ankle-deep in shit with smeared overalls and a slobbery expression. He was made for a "television trial" and he got it; quick, unfair, obscure and utterly offensive to anyone still wondering what happened to their missing friends or relatives. The court-imposed publication ban was part of the problem; it left the media picking at the same thin bone for years. Overall, there's no excuse for our paucity of information about this case over the many years it's been going on and for the probable decades it will continue.

-- 30 --

Absolute Film Reviews

Black Devil Doll (2009)

He's a lover! He's a killer! He's a muthafuckin' puppet! 'Black Devil Doll' has arrived from Lowest Common Denominator Entertainment, combining Blacksploitation with 'Puppet Master' esque cheese to create a horror/comedy masterpiece. There just isn't enough of this type of film in this politically correct age; 'rated X by an all white jury', a Charles Lee Ray type of Ouija board incident converges a black militant serial killer's soul into one hard, blackened piece of wood. Set to a '70s style, funkadelic soundtrack, 'Devil Doll' is a film which is shameless in its T & A and will do anything for a laugh. You thought Samuel L. Jackson was badass in 'Pulp Fiction'? This puppet says nigger over 100 times a day - it's the only thing that keeps his teeth white. Shameless as well is the Rotten Cotton promotion in one scene. What's Rotten Cotton you ask? ONLY THE NUMBER ONE UNDERGROUND T SHIRT SYNDICATE ON THE FUCKING PLANET! (Great for wiping up jizz after sloppy seconds.) It seems improbable that the actresses could keep a straight face as a negro puppet fucks them doggy style and eat their pussies, let alone pretend to be impassioned about the ordeal - so I've gotta give it up to them. Lots of big tits and big asses here, just how a brother likes em! Included in the DVD is a pimpin poster that actually blows the cover art out of the water, with an examination of the film's cultural impact on the other side. Commentaries are included one by the film makers and one by a very drunk Black Devil Doll himself. Do whatever you can to get this DVD, including stealing mine. Black Devil Dyer

The Children (2009)

Ghost House Underground

There's nothing like creepy kids wreaking havoc upon their parents during the Christmas season to really invoke some holiday spirit. 'The Children' is - without a doubt - one of the most downright disturbing and effective films brought to us by the newly polished version of Ghost House Pictures, Ghost House Underground. One of the first to be released by GHU, 'The Children' outwits and ultimately supersedes the majority of films to be released through the former, Ghost House Pictures, while making 'Children of the Damned' look like an episode of that God awful purple fucking pathetic excuse for a creature of the prehistoric era that I'm sure we're all familiar with. After all, it isn't aliens we're dealing with here; these are children who haven't even reached the double digits yet! Writer/Director Tom Shankland does a superb job of reinventing a story that defies the boundaries of a topic which very few would even dare try tackling, by presenting the viewers with the ultimate parental taboo: Killing your own kids to save your own life. The plot holes are plentiful but planted so brilliantly throughout the film that they actually enhance the overall eeriness of the premise. Here are these portrait-perfect parents that go from enjoying what is supposed to be the most joyous time of the year together with their children, to gradually slipping deeper down the excruciating spiral of their offspring's madness - and after all is said and done, we are left without even the slightest idea as to how or why it happened...only the vague image of a mysterious yellow substance shown momentarily during the first half hour of the film. The Children does for Killer Kiddie horror what "INSIDE" did for vengeance tales by providing an entirely fresh new take on a common theme. Guaranteed, you'll be reluctant to step anywhere near a playground or toy store after having your perception of childhood innocence violently altered.

Lacey Morris

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Dog Years (1997)

Troma

Although this may not be the most outrageous Troma release and it's definitely not the bloodiest, Dog Years remains a thrilling and enjoyable low-budget crime/drama flick. The story follows Wally, a non-racist skinhead, and his Dalmatian "Neechee". When the two are out on a walk they get tangled up with a drug deal gone bad and Neechee gets dog-napped by gangsters who think Wally has something of theirs. With the help of an animal shelter employee and his gun collecting mechanic friend, Wally begins an adventure to rescue his dog. The plot thickens as Wally must not only find Neechee, but also escape from the hands of the gangsters. Is there blood and violence? Yes. Is there excessive blood and violence? No, which works a lot better for this type of movie than if there were tons of pointless violence. There's a fairly heavy dose of reality in this indie film as it's simply a story about a boy and his dog, which most pet owners can relate to. The fact that the protagonist of the film happens to be a skinhead, already makes this an original picture with a direct fuck-off stance towards anything Hollywood. Although the budget was obviously very low and the acting is often unbearable, a reasonably well written script, unique cast and an above average soundtrack make this one just plain fun to watch. Brenin Barrow



Hanger (2009)

Plotdigger

Payback is a bitch of a whore. Ryan Nicholson's latest in his line of deliciously deranged films is his most depraved premise yet. A pregnant hooker is no good to anyone, so her pimp takes it upon himself to abort the fetus the old fashioned way via coat hanger. The baby is tossed into a dumpster, and 18 years later, crawls out to seek his revenge - but not before befriending an assortment of anomalies which would make the villainous gang in *Dick Tracy* look like a daisy chain of tanned normies at your local night club. *Hanger* is much like a darker version of a Troma movie, even featuring ol' Uncle Lloyd all drugged up in a small cameo. The death scenes keep with Nicholson's tradition to show things in horror movies that you just wouldn't see this side of Surrey. Death by douche, used tampon and the aforementioned coat hanger abortion are some of the highlights, with the atypical excellent soundtrack to accompany the madness - this time featuring B.C. heroes Bison. Fans of Nicholson's earlier masterpiece *Gutterballs* should expect a much different direction with *Hanger*, but shouldn't be disappointed if they're used to sleaze classics like *Street Trash* or *Basket Case*. Dirtier than a shitty diaper pie, but tasting just as fine, *Hanger* has been delivered at a healthy 8 lbs and is available now at www.plotdigger.com.

Rev. Dyer

Death Weekend AKA: The House By the Lake (1976)

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Absolute Horror

Writer/Director Ryan Nicholson of Plotdigger Films
By Ryan "Balls Deep" Dyer



Absolute Underground: You recently showed your newest film, "Hanger", to a theatre in Calgary at around the same time it was released on DVD – was this the first time you watched it with a crowd, and how has the reception been so far for the (totally uncut) film?

Ryan Nicholson: The Calgary midnight showing was the first time I have even seen the finished film. The people that came out to the screening were awesome and seemed to enjoy the sleaze. So far the horror community seems to be positive for the most part. It's such a different movie from my last films.

AU: How did Lloyd Kaufman get involved to play a cameo role in the film?

Ryan: That was through Debbie Rochon and her suggestion that Lloyd should have a cameo

appearance, I totally agreed. I've met Lloyd quite a few times and he has been a big inspiration to my work. It was an honor and the start of a good working relationship with Debbie, Lloyd and Plotdigger films.

AU: You mentioned that doing a film with characters in full makeup for the whole duration was inspired by "Dick Tracey"; what other influences went into "Hanger"?

Ryan: 70's revenge movies and 42nd street filth. The kind of movies that were triple billed for a couple of bucks back in the day. This is most definitely an exploitation film. Asian fetish films also played a big part in "Hanger". "Sin City" and its successful use of prosthetic character make-ups weighed heavily into "Hanger".

AU: Death by 69, gratuitous nudity from both sexes, coat hanger, abortion, tampon tea, etc – are these ideas you have had in mind already or do they come with the appropriate film?

Ryan: These movies seem to write themselves. The content begs for these kinds of death scenes. I have much more up my sleeve, you can be sure of that. With characters that have such disgusting habits, I like to incorporate those vices into their demise.

AU: There are a couple of versions of "Gutterballs" available – one with a full 80's Canadian rock soundtrack. Can you give any details on why any of the artists backed out from being included in the end?

Ryan: When one of the publishing companies found the synopsis online that graphically depicted the rape scene, it was

going to explore with your upcoming film "Star Vehicle" and projects beyond that?

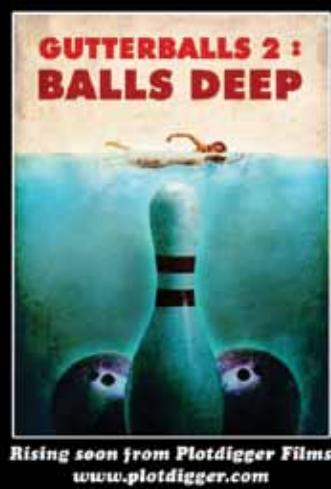
Ryan: I'm a product of the 80's but also the 70's. I think as I move forward I'll move back into the early mid 70's style of film making the "roughie" movies of that era. Not to say that I'm going to make violent pornos but my content will explore the darker regions of nastiness.

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pretty much a domino effect of the copyright holders and other parties backing out. It saved us a lot of money but caused us a lot of headaches with having to remix the movie for the official release. I guess a bowling pin in the vagina doesn't go over well with the classic rock crowd.

AU: Can you give us any info on "Gutterballs 2 – Balls Deep"? It says it will be taking place at a water park...

Ryan: The script is written, and the location is scouted, and the water will run red with blood sometime in 2010! "Gutterballs" was such an absurd movie, that it makes perfect sense to set the sequel somewhere other than a bowling alley. "Gutterballs 2" is very much an outdoors, fun in the sun, flash your tits kind of movie more like the "Up the Creek" and "Caddyshack" style of filming. Wait until you see BBK in a speedo!

AU: Does living everyday life in Surrey attribute to any ideas?

Ryan: Yes indeed. A place like Whalley gives me a lot of strange ideas. It's much more engaging than even the east side of downtown Vancouver. There has been quite a few murders in 2009 in Surrey, but I do my best to keep my death scenes fake and on screen.

AU: You are no stranger to producing some no holds barred imagery; is there anything you would consider to be too taboo to show in film?

Ryan: I think that as long as no one gets hurt and no one goes to jail while making my movies, we are doing okay. Pretty much anything is fair game.

AU: Closing statement for the horror community?

Ryan: As Max Renn once said, "Long live the new flesh!"

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Artist Profile - Steve Webb

Absolute Underground: Who are you and what are you known for?

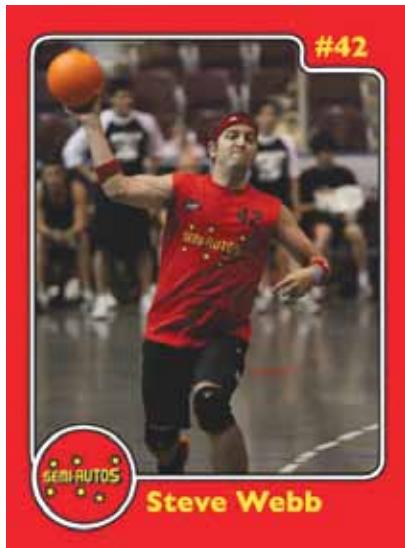
Steve Webb: I'm Steve Webb. I am best known as the administrator at Metropol in Victoria. I coach the Metroball Dodgeball Society and am the publisher of the arts and culture magazine, The Metropolitan. I also play drums for Rock n' Roll bastards, Growler.

AU: What made you choose this line of work?

Webb: I like music, I always thought gigposters were cool and I wanted to work in the industry. Gigposters are similar to things like graphic novels, in that it's a collaboration between two disciplines of art. A great poster artist has to try to communicate something about the music and make it appealing to a specific demographic for a fleeting period of time. It gets designed, printed and posted over a month - then it's gone. The truly fantastic thing is when someone takes a poster home and puts it on their wall to remember a life-changing experience. How many people do you know with gigposters tacked up somewhere? Often they don't even know who the artist was, but the poster means so much to them.

AU: Explain what Metropol does to the layman at home?

Webb: We design, print and distribute thousands of posters a month all over the city. If you saw a poster in Victoria, there's a really good chance



Steve Webb

like this back in the early part of this decade.

AU: What are some of your favorite posters Metropol has designed?

Webb: We've had a roster of great guys working in our creative department over the years. Some of my favorites are the 2007 Dinosaur Jr. poster by Joey MacDonald (now of Olio Cooperative). Joey now has the best poster screenprinting

we had a hand in it somehow. We have a creative department that designs logos, brochures, T-shirts, etc. and a full digital print shop to print handbills, booklets, tickets and pretty much anything else you can think of. Many people don't fully understand what we can do or the philosophy behind the company. We encourage you to call us up and have a chat about your project - we get an honest day's work helping people do cool shit.

AU: Was there previously poster wars on the poles downtown?

Webb: Indeed there was. For a time, we were in danger of losing the ability to legally

poster entirely and the environmental impacts and costs were shocking. We're talking in excess of 60,000 total posters were going up monthly between all of us in 2002. We duked it out for many years, but Metropol was really committed to the concept of 'poster management'. In the years since, we've reduced the overall postering in Victoria by about half and taken the art of gigposters a long way.

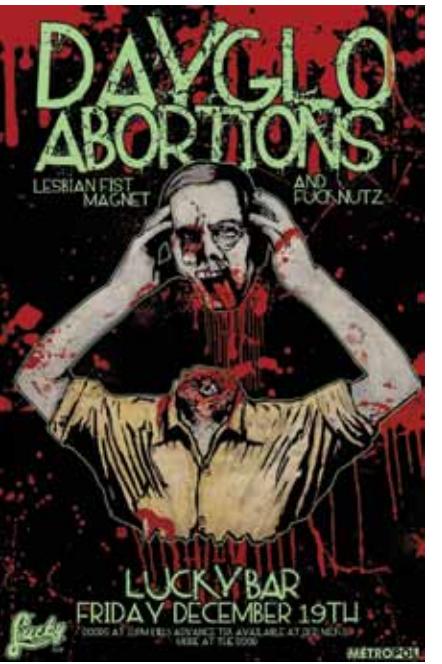
For the most part, people appreciate a consistent and fairly priced poster service. It's been a long road but I have to acknowledge the work of Dimitri Demers and Scott Laming for laying down the framework for a concept

like this back in the early part of this decade.

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ARTIST PROFILE



cool change in gigposter art citywide at that time and wanted to showcase it somehow. Nobody cared so I started throwing in band interviews and artist profiles. I think I sold an ad in 2005. We got serious in 2006 and 2008. We've frequently taken hiatuses to regroup and figure out ways to do it better. We've done about 45 issues and the last was a 32 page glossy magazine in February of 2009 that we are really proud of.

AU: Tell us about your new Metropol website?

Webb: The thing about being poster nerds is that we have archived every single poster we have ever touched. We have estimated that when we are done, it will have about 5000 hi-resolution posters in it, searchable by venue, band, designer and the font 'papyrus'. We are committed to maintaining this archive as long as we are around and hope it will serve as a visual representation of the music industry in Victoria for years to come.

AU: What else is on the horizon for Metropol?

Webb: Our print department has been kicking ass so we are opening a street level print shop in 2010. Probably buy a scooter for Kev. Oh, and I hope you guys like bowling. www.imetropol.com www.themetropolitan.ca www.metroball.ca

AU: What was the inspiration behind the Metropolitan Magazine you publish?

Webb: The Metropolitan was originally made on a photocopier in the back of Lucky Bar in 2004 and was exclusively gigposters. I was seeing a really

FYIYFI

"Bound And Gagged in 2010"

By Liam Lux and Darcy Smith

They made promises. They told you they were on your side.

They promised it wouldn't cost too much.

Early estimates by Gordon Campbell and the Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC) projected the total cost of the games at a cool 600 million dollars.

According to the latest reports at 2010Watch.com, costs will reach ten times those estimates, coming in at a whopping 6 billion dollars. They promised transparency so you'd know what they're doing with your dollars, but they still deny the outrageously spiraling costs. While Campbell stood with his fingers crossed behind his back, telling taxpayers they wouldn't foot the bill, his government slashed social

programs, health care, education, and the arts - just to start.

They promised you'd make the money back. That hundreds of thousands of tourists with deep pockets and fat wallets would cause a boom in the local economy. They failed to mention that, historically, these booms last only the duration of the Olympics - three quick weeks that are invariably followed by a deeply depressed season far below annual averages. Whistler-Blackcomb ski resort is already anticipating huge losses due to "Olympic aversion." 90% of the mountain is still open to skiers - with zero parking available.

They promised the Games would be good for the city. They bragged about business development, better infrastructure, trade expansion, and jobs for everyone. But at what cost? When Cambie Street was gutted to install the new Canada Line, local businesses started going belly-up. One local

designer and storeowner, Susan Heyes, sued the city for compensation - and won. But the city won't pay up. They're appealing the decision while they keep promising their empty promises.

They promised to be green, to "ensure a minimal environmental footprint." Instead of footprints, they're leaving tire treads. Big ones. Locals have

watched green spaces, woods, and bog lands

like the Eagleridge Bluffs clear-cut and paved for the Sea-to-Sky expansion. Meanwhile, concrete and other waste from Olympic projects are polluting local rivers and poisoning salmon runs. Developers claim to "lead the way in green building design and standards," but instead of green buildings, you're left with glass houses.

They promised not to fuck over the homeless. They've reportedly spent 2.5 billion on venues and housing for visiting athletes and media - but they're turning the Little Mountain social

housing development into an Olympic parking lot, displacing 700 people, mostly families, children, and seniors. Even scarier is the forced exodus of Downtown Eastside inhabitants - those with and without addresses - as the city

sweeps its mess under the rug and scrubs up for company.

They promised not to fuck with our freedom. They didn't mention that Olympic security policies override the Canadian Charter of Rights. By designating "free speech zones," or "protest pens," they are effectively making the rest of the city a "no-speech zone," where you're allowed to have an opinion as long as

you keep it to yourself. The new anti-ambush marketing bylaws effectively impose a gag order on the city, prohibiting anti-Olympic slogans. Even worse, police will be granted

unprecedented new powers - powers that don't expire after the Games - to spot-check people for identification (Papers, please!) and inspect "large packages" at their discretion (Is that a bomb in your bag or are you just happy to see me?). The laws are written so vaguely that the cops can potentially single out whomever they choose. And anyone guilty of any misdemeanor

- vagrancy (say goodbye to the homeless), drug possession (Pot-free pockets in BC?), or violating the anti-ambush bylaws with "suspect" political statements (hide your t-shirt at home) - could be detained indefinitely without trial because they plan to operate a skeleton criminal process over the course of the Games.

Celebrate Vancouver 2010 and watch your civil liberties trampled by "civic pride."

They made promises, but they lied.

(NEXT ISSUE: THE ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE OLYMPICS "WITH GLOWING HEARTS")



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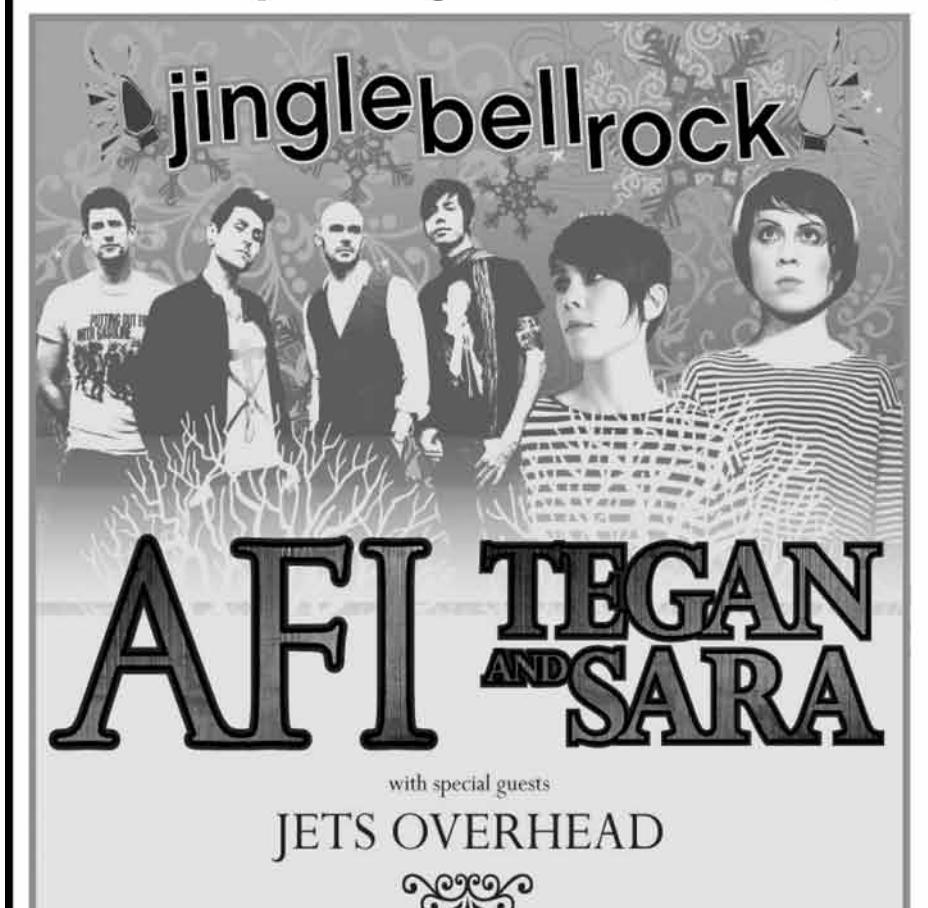
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Absolute Cinema

LET THEM KNOW:

The Story Of Youth Brigade and BYO Records

by Mark Stern, Shawn Stern and Jamie Stern, 99 pgs.

BYO Records has been a part of my life pretty much from the beginning of my discovery of punk rock. SNUF was

road travelled over the decades by Youth Brigade and BYO. Whether you like them or not is irrelevant; the sheer hard work and output these guys have done for the international punk rock community is massive. This documentary tells their story right from the beginning and does a great job of doing so. I was really glad for the opportunity to get a DVD of this since when I saw the premiere of it at Punk Rock Bowling a couple of years ago I was admittedly pretty shit-faced.

The first thing that strikes me about this film is the humor. Like in the book, the Stern brothers aren't afraid to take a joke at their own expense. Where other "punk rock legends" would be leaving anything to do with their old bands or forays into mainstream pop on the cutting room floor, these guys throw it all out there for everyone to see and laugh about. It seems any time Fat Mike opens his mouth, something funny comes out.

The music is great, the old footage of all the bands is amazing and the firsthand stories from the dawning of North American hardcore are priceless. It covers the early days of L.A. punk - Godzillaz, Another State Of Mind, the expansion, closing and rebirth of the record label, and Punk Rock Bowling (great footage of Team Tiltwheel in all their glory). Even if you're not a punk rock history nerd like me this is a lot of fun to watch.

Now we move on to the most lacking part of the package. The concept behind the compilation is a great idea, but it also becomes its biggest liability. The premise is simple and awesome: Get a bunch of current bands (some on BYO and some not) and have them cover songs from the label's vast back catalog. Great. I'm all over

On to the documentary movie that focuses on the long

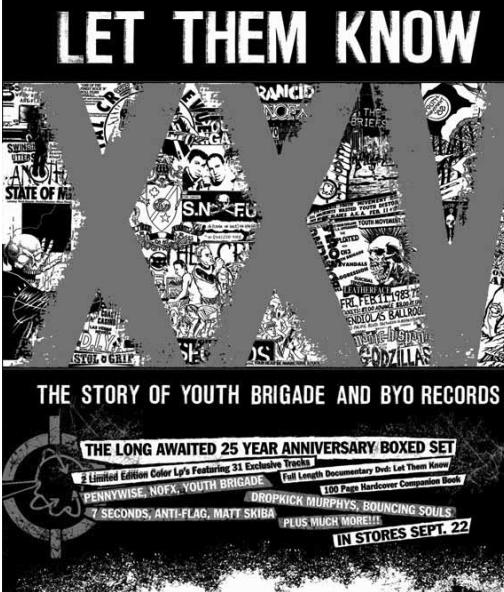
this since I'm a big fan of both BYO Records and cover songs. "What's the problem?" you ask. Well, my beef lies in the song selection. Sure, it's kind of cool to have the bands choose their own song, but there has to be some guidelines. The result is a good compilation but a pretty uneven representation of the bevy of amazing bands that have been on BYO over the years. Okay, those that know me might call me biased on what I'm about to say but I say it's a goddamn shame that there is only one SNUF cover on here and four(!) One Man Army songs. Nothing against OMA, but I don't get it. The only band that should rightfully have four songs covered (and they do) is Youth Brigade. Also, the only compilation songs that should have been allowed to be chosen should have come from "Someone Got Get Their Head Kicked In" and "Something To Believe In". It doesn't feel right to me to have bands that weren't even on BYO

have a song covered just because they had one track on a compilation in the late 90's. No matter how rad it is to hear Leatherface covering Dillinger Four (and it is incredibly rad!), it doesn't belong on this tribute. If we cut those songs out, as well as anything from the "Split Series" records and we've got some room for some other bands like Jughead's Revenge, Pinhead Circus, Four Letter Word, Jon Cougar Concentration Camp or any of the other bands that have helped create the foundation of the label.

All of that said, I still love the majority of the songs on here, and it must have been a lot of fun to put together. Together in the package with the excellent book and the movie, it's an epic box set worth having

-Ty Stranglehold

Over 25 Years of Punk Rock... One story that has never been told



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HOROSCOPES

December 2009 & January 2010

ARIES

Through the past few weeks you are getting into positive new directions. December is for creating some bigger pond connections. You have such an energy boost around December 10th that you should be careful that you don't rough shod over others. The sincerity that you have demonstrated over the past months is paying off in the generosity of friends and professional associates. Do take advantage, because the Eclipses New Years Eve and in January are indicating big changes in your career and reputation this winter. Late January brings you lots of attention. Being too freewheeling, may turn off supporters.



TAURUS

The stars suggest that you are contemplating some life changes. You are intent upon building a more interesting and fun life. December's main theme is about financial planning. A long range plan requires some investment. Careful how much influence that you want to have on family decisions, because with influence comes responsibilities. Look for a career pat on the back or opportunity around December 21st. You have some resolutions this New Years. Make time for the class or join the gym. Even your career has some fun aspects the last week of January. The friendships that you firm up this year ahead will be fixtures for decades to come.



GEMINI

The emphasis is on your closest relationships. Have confidence. Through the first few days of December establish the lines of communication, which you want to deepen over the next few weeks. Around December 21st note the spiritual blessing that may even be accompanied by an angel. Don't be shy, ask it out. Christmas time is heavy and stressful. Be forewarned and don't take on too much responsibility. The Eclipses New Years Eve and January 15th suggest your circumstances are becoming more duty bound. There is adaptation needed to maintain your cash flow. The Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse New Years Eve brings a bit of a revelation and attitude adjustment.



CANCER

A situation is moving into your life that requires you to be stable and responsible for the next three years. Yet, the usual holiday preparations seem to flow little easier this year. Yule, December 21st, is significant, because through spirituality and imagination you feel an empowerment, which has been building for months. The Eclipses New Years Eve and mid-January indicate drama and change in your closest personal relationships, which unfold over the next couple months. It is not bad; you are loved and cared about, but relationships will change. The Full Moon January 29th holds a caution flag around your finances.



LEO

The first 3 weeks of December bring creative opportunities. The December 1st Full Moon, new faces could become new friends. Get introduced. December 21st, Yule, is a magical day when you can realize romantic dreams. It is as though there has been a catalyst in your life these past 6 months who changes your approach to relating. On New Years Eve little twinges or inner prompts could be flagging significant issues in health and work. Resolutions carry more weight than usual. The Full Moon January 29th brings this relationship emphasis around again. There is a new awareness about how you impact others.



LIBRA

You are busy with networking and communication. You have ample support and may even find someone who wants to help make things happen for you. Key connections may be made around the December 16th New Moon. The Blue Moon is indicating change in your career over the next couple months. The Solar Eclipse January 14/15th heralds change in your home and family. The patterns and routines of domestic life are bound to change as you change what you are doing in the world. The Full Moon January 29/30th is so jam packed with significant creative fun that, for you, it starts on the 22nd.



SCORPIO

The Full Moon December 1st and the 3 weeks following have your attention on finances. The plan of action gets underway with the New Moon December 14th. December 21st you are inspired with a vision of how things could be with home and family. Through the next 4 weeks you can change the patterns that see you and yours through your day to day living. You know how to be healthier and happier. Now is the time to integrate this knowledge into life. The Blue Moon/Lunar Eclipse New Years Eve brings a bit of a revelation and attitude adjustment.



SAGITTARIUS

Happy Birthday, Sagittarius. The Full Moon December 1st illuminates the status of your closest relationships. Make them better. You are as persuasive as you need to be.



GEMINI

The New Moon December 14th is a green light to pursue your goals.

Give voice to your positive feelings and spiritual illumination. You have been getting an inspiring positive thinking vibe since June, and this reaches a culmination December 21st. There is another angle for you to generate income. Market your skills. The Blue Moon/Lunar Eclipse brings some ideas about how you can do this. The Solar Eclipse January 14/15th helps get the ball rolling.



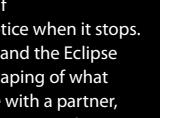
CAPRICORN

The Sun in Sagittarius is a time of reflection. Watch out around the December 1st Full Moon that this is not enforced due to illness, with the H1N1 flu being so pervasive. The New Moon December 16th is about an inner initiative to decide what you believe in. This is, also, a good time



AQUARIUS

The Full Moon December 1st your kids or a creative project could use some attention. December 21st the Sun enters Capricorn and Jupiter has its last line up with Neptune of an influence that has been going on since June. People have been generous and forgiving towards you. If you have not noticed then you will notice when it stops.



PISCES

The New Moon December 14/15th holds a career opportunity. Making sincerity an integral part of your professional modus operandi enhances your reputation. December 21st holds a spiritual and professional pat on the back for the efforts that have been coming out of you since June. After January 16th you get a year of good karma. Dream big. The Blue Moon/Lunar Eclipse on New Years Eve illuminates your creativity. Networking is bringing you an opportunity to fulfill a personal goal. The Eclipses usher you into a bigger pond over the next couple of months.



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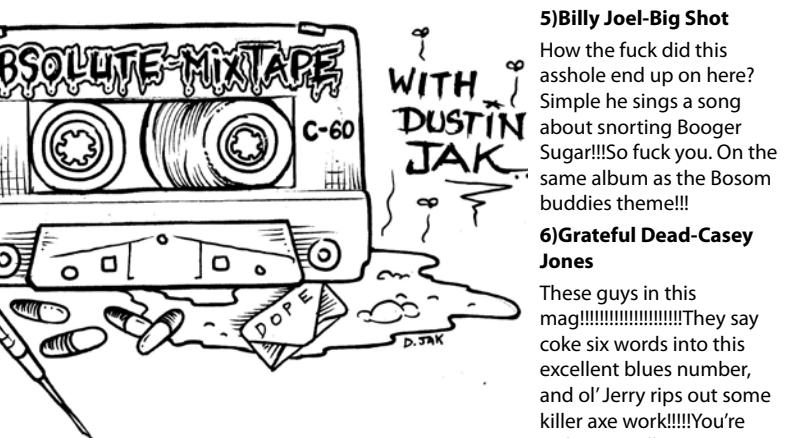
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"Find These Songs and Make a Fuckin' Mix Tape"



These are songs about SNOW

1) The Geto Boys-Scarface

Awesome coke dealer inspired rap from our homes down south in which our hero's girlfriend is shot in the head during sexual intercourse. Great holiday fun!

2) Eric Clapton-Cocaine

Standard cover of this JJ Cale staple, except who ends up down on the ground from that shit? Maybe crawling around for rocks?

3) Black Sabbath-Wall of Sleep

Perfect Ozzy number about "the devil's dandruff" that you wouldn't think was about drugs until the hints pop up - "chill that numbs from head to toe"

4) Black Sabbath-Snowblind

Ozzy originally wanted to call their fourth record "Cocaine" but the label execs weren't having that shit. Apparently he snuck in the studio at night to overdub the famous COCAINE whisper at the end of the first verse!!!

5) Billy Joel-Big Shot

How the fuck did this asshole end up on here? Simple he sings a song about snorting Booger Sugar!!! So fuck you. On the same album as the Bosom buddies theme!!!

6) Grateful Dead-Casey Jones

These guys in this mag!!!!!! They say coke six words into this excellent blues number, and ol' Jerry rips out some killer axe work!!!! You're welcome Willy.

7) David Bowie-TV 15

Excellent song about his good pal Jimmy Osterberg(lggy) shooting so much cocaine that he was receiving "Transmission's" from Dave's television. Recorded at a time Bowie can't even remember!!!!

8) The Rolling Stones-Can't You Hear Me Knocking

One of the best Stones songs ever laid down, taken from the Sticky Fingers album. This was the transformation into the Screamers band we all loved so much until Keith got pinched for smack in TO in 78!

9) Johnny Cash-Cocaine Blues

What kind of psycho motherfucker shot coke in the early 60's? HARDCORE!!!!!!

10) Master P-Ghetto Dope

Seriously thought I had heard it all until these New Orleans maniacs come out with a song that tells the average person how to buy cocaine and furnish into freebase with the use of boiling water and baking soda, then to go and peddle it. I tried that but I smoked all mine by accident. No shit.

- Dustin Jak

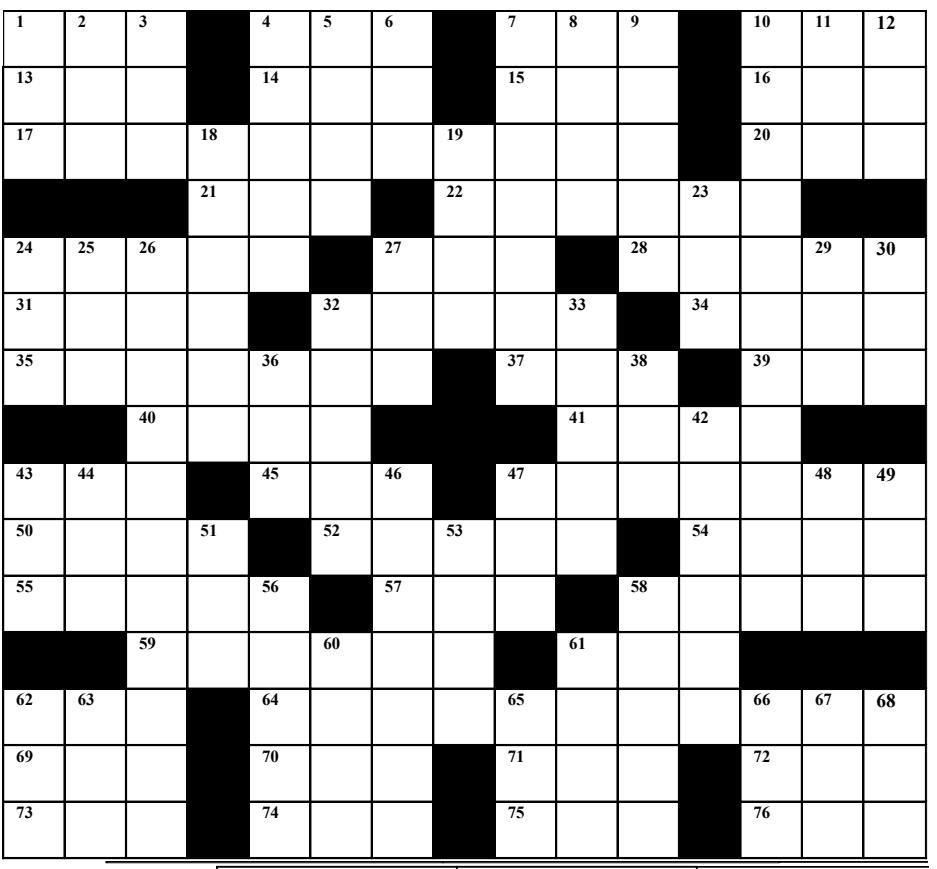
IRIS

There is a challenge to stay positive. Do so by putting energy and intention into connecting to your spiritual side. The December 1st Full Moon suggests that you need to chose work over fun. Through mid-December take initiatives to reorganize your home and organize your family. December 20th-21st brings opportunities to improve your work and health situations. Christmas time seems a bit rough. The life changes indicated by the Eclipses New Years Eve and January 14th are about kids, romance, creativity, and fun; those areas of life where we take a chance and play. You are deciding to have more fun.



David Zunker is an Astrologer, Tarot Card Reader, and occult guy in Victoria, who does readings and classes. www.mysticmountainlodge.com

Crossword & COMIX



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Sex Column XXX



**Dear Dr. J,
Does size matter?
-Unsatisfied Sue**

Dear Unsatisfied,
Absolutely!! I think the size of the vagina is incredibly important and shouldn't be so overlooked and understated. The different sizes and varieties of pussy are far vaster than the range of penis size. Some girls are so tight they can't fuck like normal people, and some girls can fit your whole head up there. So who should the onus be on? Speaking of onus... a small dick is great for backdoor action, he probably gives great head, and chances are he's got some wicked tricks up his sleeve because he knows he's hung like Ellen Degeneres and learned at a

Dear Allergic,
First of all, my sordid and filthy advice should never be used without also consulting your gynecologist. Judging by your symptoms, it could be any number of things. Without a speculum and a naughty nurse outfit, I can't properly diagnose jack shit. I doubt you're afflicted with Jack Shit anyways, that occurs most commonly in homosexual males. Here's a few possibilities to feed your eager mind.

FYI, ladies, this is NOT a normal symptom and it's not that common, but many women do experience it at some point or another. Don't ignore it. Go to the doctor.

-Love, (Va J.J.)

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